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—65 R.E.—

A Short Record of the  
Service of the 65th Field  
Company Royal Engineers

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**65 R.E.**









CAPTAIN R. H. SCOVELL.

*Frontispiece*

*Duff, Alan Colquhoun*

## **65 R.E.**

# **A Short Record of the Service of the 65th Field Company Royal Engineers**

**CAMBRIDGE  
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TO THE MEMORY OF  
THE OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND MEN  
OF THE 65TH FIELD COMPANY, ROYAL ENGINEERS,  
WHO LOST THEIR LIVES  
IN THE GREAT ADVENTURE  
1915-1919



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## INTRODUCTION

THE following chapters were written at various times between 1916 and 1920, and until 1919 I had no idea of collecting them into a record of the unit. Consequently certain periods and certain incidents were described in detail which is out of proportion, as well as from a standpoint other than that of a Company history. Unfortunately after this lapse of time it would be too difficult to correct these faults.

They have been so collected because it is certain that a large number of men will value the book highly, partly as a reminder of their service during the war, and partly because it will enable them to renew old friendships made in the Company during that time. It is for the latter reason that the appendix has been added, though its preparation has taken as much time and trouble as the remainder of the book. I can lay no claim to have added anything to the history of the war. The accuracy of dates and names cannot be guaranteed, and for that reason I have not attempted to include maps, and have avoided all discussion of operations of any kind beyond what was necessary to make the story intelligible. The book is intended for the pleasure of former members of the Company, and the only interest it can offer to the general public is that it presents a rough sketch of life and work in a Field Company in the Eastern theatres of war. Many of those who read this and who served in

France will think that a Field Company which incurred in three years something under a hundred battle casualties must have had a very easy time. But they can set against this the facts that during that period the number of men who had leave to England was less than ten, and that the number of admissions to hospital of cases of dysentery, malaria and fever was about a thousand. Without for a moment contending that the armies in France had a better time, I have only met one officer who, having served on both fronts, said that he preferred the East.

The delay in producing this record was due to the impossibility of getting it published until I returned to England, but the delay had the advantage that it enabled me to submit the manuscript to Colonel Noble, who kindly suggested various alterations and additions which I have carried out. I have also to thank Mrs. Scovell, Mrs. Gill, Captain Pank and Captain Waller, for copies of photographs.

In the unlikely event of any profits arising from the sale they will be sent as a subscription from the 65th Field Company to the Royal Engineers' War Memorial Fund. The scholarships instituted by this fund are now open to the children of officers, N.C.O.'s, and men who served in the R.E. during the war and were either killed or disabled. Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, R.E. War Memorial, The R.E. Institute, Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

D.

## CHAPTER I

### IRELAND AND GALLIPOLI

THE 65th Field Company was one of the first new companies formed after the outbreak of war. At that time only two companies were allotted to each division. The 63rd and 64th went to the 9th (Scotch) Division, and the 65th and 66th to the 10th (Irish). Later on a third company was added, and the 85th came to join the 65th and 66th. Each company was formed at Chatham from drafts of recruits and such officers and N.C.O.'s as could be spared, and was then sent out to a station with its division to turn itself from a heterogeneous mass of civilians into a Field Company.

The 65th was formed entirely from Kitchener's First Hundred Thousand. Only two officers were available for its training: Capt. R. H. Scovell, R.E., and Lieut. G. E. Gill, R.E. (S.R.). For six months they laboured without help, and even when more officers arrived from their short course at Chatham, the burden was little decreased, for the officers had to be trained as well as the men. Two more competent officers could not have been found. Capt. Scovell was before all else a soldier. War had come at last, and it was to preparation for war that his life had been devoted. It was his spirit that guided and inspired all who served under him. He never made mistakes. One of his N.C.O.'s said long afterwards, "Nothing Captain Scovell did could go wrong." Bitterly

disappointed as he must have been at not going out with the Expeditionary Force, he threw himself heart and soul into getting his new company out to the front as quickly as possible.

Gill was a Special Reserve officer who had just completed his training with the 17th Company. He was an engineer by profession, and had joined the Special Reserve with a view to going to the Indian P.W.D. He had taken his training very seriously, and the outbreak of war found him as efficient as many regular officers of the same seniority. He and Capt. Scovell had to build up the tradition which carried the Company through four years of active service. Neither of them lived to see the end of those four years.

If their task was difficult they could have asked for no finer material. Untrained of course it was ; but the will was there, and the power was there. The First Hundred Thousand were the very pick and flower of England's manhood. The requisite physical standard was high, but they brought something more than physique. It required a high ideal and a spirit of adventure to make a man throw up his calling, cut the loss, which was often a big one, and join the Army immediately war came. How many are left now of the First Hundred Thousand, and how much is the country the poorer by their loss !

As soon as it was formed the Company moved to the Curragh, and set to work. They had the same troubles and the same triumphs as other units training all over Great Britain during that winter. Ian Hay has given us a description which no one can hope to rival. During the winter and spring new officers came : Major Garrett ; Patteson, commissioned from the ranks of the company ;

Jameson ; Reed. In spring the Division moved to Basingstoke to await orders for embarkation. In June khaki drill was issued, so they knew that their destination was somewhere in the East. On July 7th they sailed from Devonport.

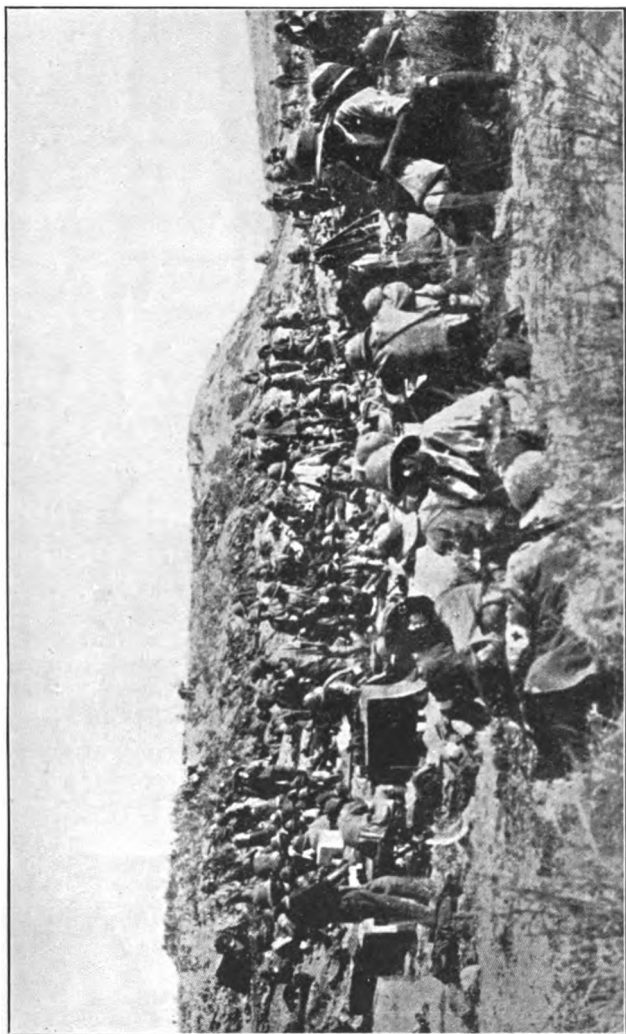
They landed at Mudros, and were employed there for a short time on hutting for hospitals. When they re-embarked on August 7th they left the work incomplete, and the few who came back two months later found that nothing had been touched ; not a scrap of timber moved. Before they left Mudros dysentery was spreading fast, all the more so because men were concealing it for fear of being left behind.

On August 8th they landed at Suvla. The story of that struggle has been told and re-told, but those who took part in it knew nothing of the strategy of the operation, and little of the tactics. For the first week the Company worked as fatigue parties, carrying ammunition and water, cutting tracks through the rock and scrub, constantly sniped and shelled ; with little food and a pint of water a day ; under a scorching sun which gave place to bitterly cold nights ; without rest, casualties increasing and sickness spreading fast. Major Garrett was shot through the throat by a sniper, and Capt. Scovell took command. This went on till the 16th of August.

On the 16th the Division was to attack along the top of Kirech Tepe, the high ridge of rock which runs steeply down to Cape Suvla. The attack began well, but was held up, and the Turks counter-attacked in force. The Company, coming up in rear to make tracks behind the advance, received orders to reinforce the Dublin Fusiliers, who had suffered very heavily. Tools were

stacked, and they went up to the ridge, behind which the Dublins were lying. While the Company spread out among them to thicken the line, Scovell walked on and looked over the crest. He fell straight back, shot through the heart. A moment later, Jameson, behind him, was shot through the head. Soon afterwards bombs began to come over. There were none to throw back. All that could be done was to prevent snipers establishing themselves on the crest. Throughout the day they lay there helpless, while the bombs exploded among them. Once a hostile aeroplane came down and bombed along the line. Patteson was wounded in two places by splinters, and again by a spent bullet in the lung. He was able to walk away, and on his way down found a deserted machine gun. This he brought back, set up on the ridge, and worked until so much weakened by loss of blood that he had to give up. The M.O., Magna, took him away and put him to sleep. Gill was hit repeatedly by small splinters of bomb, but luckily received no serious wound. Sixty men out of about a hundred were killed or wounded. In the end the 5th Royal Irish (Pioneers) came up and took over, and the Company was able to go.

The remainder were moved to Chocolate Hill, and attached to the 66th. Gill was the only officer left, with about thirty sappers. Ninety per cent. of these had dysentery more or less severely. Early in September they were moved back to Lala Baba, which was comparatively peaceful. They were slightly reinforced. Sanders arrived from the R.N.D. at Helles, and changed himself from a sapper to a subaltern by putting stars on his shoulder-straps with indelible pencil, and cutting a stick from a bush. Major Borradaile came from Mudros.



DRESSING-STATION ON "A" BEACH, CAPE SUVLA.

*Face page 4*





D. arrived from England, got dysentery in four days, and was evacuated to hospital on the seventh. On the same day the Company re-embarked. Gill was so ill that he could not walk, and had to be carried on a limber. No one knew where they were going ; Mudros, probably, for a rest. They went to Mudros, but there was no rest. The expedition to Serbia was urgently required. Two French and one British Division were to attempt to join up with the retreating Serbians before their line of communication was cut. So ten days later they landed at Salonica.

Two nights before the Company left Lala Baba there was an alarm near Chocolate Hill. An outburst of rifle fire broke out and spread to right and left. The guns joined in ; shells from the Turks' big guns on the Asiatic side hummed and moaned overhead, and the ships in the bay shook the night with the crash of their broad-sides, answered by winking flashes of bursts on Sari Bair and Scimitar Hill. The trenches were lined in light in a great semi-circle from Anzac to Jephson's Post. It was at Jephson's Post, six weeks before, that the Company had successfully undergone their baptism of fire.

## CHAPTER II

### SERBIA

THE train certainly could not be called fast. Men would jump off, buy a cap-full of oranges from a hawker, overtake the train without difficulty, and get back to their places. Nor could it be called comfortable. The trucks only differed from those of France by adding to the usual notice of "40 hommes : 8 chevaux," an incomprehensible remark in what was popularly supposed to be Serbian. But slow and uncomfortable as it might be, the relief of getting away at last from the Base Camp at Salonica was too keen to allow anyone to be critical. The weather was magnificent, the country ahead unknown and reported to be good, and, in addition, there was the pleasant prospect of meeting again friends already up the line.

One of the few passenger compartments contained three R.E. officers of the Division going up to rejoin their Companies. Sleigh and D. were just out of hospitals to which they had been sent from Suvla a few weeks before, one shot through the arm, one down with dysentery. The third, Craig, had been left behind in Salonica to effect local purchases for the C.R.E., which involved endless and heart-breaking struggles with extortionate Greek tradesmen, who attempted with some success to play off the British against the French, and thus inflate

their prices. In these transactions he was assisted by an interpreter, who possessed the merit of being equally incomprehensible in Greek and English. However, this task had now been taken over by the Base, and Craig was returning to his company to convalesce. The three were sharing a meal of biscuits, oranges, chocolate, and beer—a menu dictated by the local idea of British taste—and speculating over a map as to where their respective companies might be.

At that time, towards the end of November, it was becoming more and more clear that the expedition into Serbia had been sent too late. The French were still pushing on to try and join up with the right of the retiring Serbian Army, but the opposing pressure was becoming stronger and stronger. The single British Division was covering the right of the French attack, and lay extended roughly north and south, with its right flank resting on Lake Doiran, close to the point where the frontiers of Serbia, Greece and Bulgaria meet. Plans for the retirement were already being made, though of this the three in the train naturally knew nothing. Still less did they dream of the change in the weather that the next week would bring.

It was dark when they reached Doiran Station, but there were friends from Sleight's company to meet them, and a limber for their kit. They walked up to the camp along the main road that skirts the south-west corner of the lake, and runs up through Doiran village. Just before reaching that dirty little town they were shown the line of white stones running at right angles to the road which marks the Graeco-Serbian frontier. It was a clear, frosty night with a bright moon, and the mountains since called the Grande and Petite Couronnes were

sharply outlined against the sky to the left of Doiran. The camp was at the edge of the road, and consisted of a tent and a few "bivvies" of canvas. That was before the days of bivouac-sheets, and the home-made article was the only one known. The three newcomers were warmly welcomed by Waller, the friend of every man in the division, and were soon sharing the hospitality of the bivvies, feeling that though this might not be England it was at least a home.

Next morning Craig and D. pushed on to their Company, leaving Sleigh with his. The morning was bright and sunny, and soon effaced the memory of the frost during the night. On their right lay the lake, bordered with reed-beds ten and fifteen feet high. Hidden among them were fishermen's huts, built on piles, and on the roofs sat boys who screamed and shouted to keep the birds away from the fish. To the left rose the mountains, the eastern end of the long ridge which separates Lake Doiran from Ghuevgheli and the Vardar, too steep for any but pack transport, and that only by a few indistinctly marked tracks. Once the end of the ridge was passed, the road swung away from the lake and ran up the long valley towards the Dedeli Pass, a branch road turning off to the left and running behind the ridge past Cerniste and Bogdanci back to Ghuevgheli. Just beyond the turning, beside the main road, they found their Company in bivouac. Behind the camp rose a second high range, nearly at right angles to the ridge above Doiran, its southern end sloping down steeply to the lake, and on the top of it ran the right of the British line.

The Company was at this time much split up. Gill, who was now second in command, was on detachment

with the French, and he had with him the bridging equipment of the Division and men to work it. He first set up a flying bridge at Krivolak, and later at Demirkapu, and rendered valuable service to the French during their retreat, receiving a most polite letter of thanks from the French General. The work during the blizzard of early December was of the most trying nature; handling pontoon rafts in a swift stream is never easy, and in a snowstorm it becomes almost impossible. He had cases of frost-bite as well as other casualties, and finally had to sink his pontoons, burn the wagons, and march by road through the Dedeli Pass to Doiran, crossing the road-bridges less than twelve hours before they were blown up. He did not rejoin the Company till they reached Salonica.

Two days later, without warning, the snow began. The Company woke to find three inches of snow on the ground, and white eddies piling up mounds round wagon-wheels and tent flaps. With the snow came the wind. It blew from the north, from Furkha and Dedeli, cold, fierce, piercing. It cut through a leather waistcoat and British warm coat as though they were pyjamas. For two days the Company froze in their bivouacs, and then fled to the nearest village, Cerniste. A day spent in cleaning and disinfecting made the dirty, ramshackle houses more or less habitable, and the danger of disease brought by the small tenants already in occupation was preferable to the certainty of frost-bite outside. The rightful owners, mostly Turks, were already being removed to Doiran, so that they should have no opportunity of helping the pursuing Bulgars after we had evacuated the valley. Wood was plentiful, and if getting up in the morning was not pleasant, in the evening,

sitting round a blazing fire, one could forget the wind and snow outside.

Running away into billets may be possible to a Field Company, but the Infantry holding the line have no such refuge. The sufferings of the battalions on the hills above were terrible. The Division had been sent direct from Gallipoli, and blankets and clothing were almost entirely on the summer scale. The hills were so rocky that only a few inches could be excavated, and the trenches were composed of sangars built up with stone to the requisite height. Dug-outs there were none, partly on this account, and partly because no squared timber could be obtained for roofing them. Those in authority, knowing that everything sent up would have very shortly to be abandoned, were reluctant to increase the loss by supplying more than bare essentials. Even the cover afforded by trees was seldom to be found. Hundreds and hundreds of cases of frost-bite were evacuated during the following ten days. Officers who had served through the Gallipoli campaign compared it favourably with that week of horror.

The snow ceased, and shortly afterwards the wind too, and was succeeded by a dense mist, thick as a London fog, and wetting as rain. For twenty-four hours on end one could not see five yards, and the condensed moisture dripped from eyelashes and moustache. In the mist the Bulgar attack began. They pushed hard on the left of our line, near the junction with the French, but the Company knew little of what was happening, though the steady booming of the guns told them that matters were drawing to a crisis. Their work, road maintenance and improvement, was useful, but not exciting. Little could be done for the infantry in the

line while material was not forthcoming, and any officers not working on the roads were employed in reconnaissance on the Doiran Ridge, mapping out a line for a rearguard action, and finding out the best routes across the ridge for their subsequent withdrawal.

On the 9th of December visitors arrived at Cerniste. The Company came in from their work in the evening to find the narrow streets and courtyards full of French cavalymen, whinnying ponies picketted in every open spot, and half a dozen French officers installed in their Officers' Mess. Craig had offered their colonel the room lately vacated by Major Borradaile, who had gone to hospital. Dinner was a wonderful ceremony. The newcomers' cook produced a five-course meal such as the Englishmen had not seen since they left Salonica. Conversation flagged, as only one Frenchman knew any English and only one Englishman knew any French, and it was interrupted by the entrance of "sous-officiers" who came to report, beginning with a beautiful salute and ending in a deep bass "mon colonel." Immediately after dinner the Frenchmen pulled off their boots and tunics, gathered their blankets over them, and in ten minutes were all asleep.

On the following day all available sappers were ordered up to Dedeli for wiring. D. went with them, and reported at headquarters there. Leaving a party at Dedeli to cut pickets from the timbers of the ruined houses, the remainder pushed on through the pass to its mouth, where they found a cyclist post. All the bridges under the road were festooned with red and black fuze, and the charges were already in position in the girders. A barbed wire fence had to be run across the mouth of the pass, in front of our front line, and the



work began as soon as the pickets came in from Dedeli village. In front all was quiet, but French 75's behind were firing at intervals through the day, though the bursts could not be seen. The crack of the gun is even more trying than that of our own 18-pounder.

On their left the French were heavily engaged. Twice during the day the intermittent rattle of rifle fire rose to a roar, above which rose the shouts of charging Bulgars. D. was conjuring up rueful pictures of struggling back up the pass, potted at by a line of Bulgars on the heights above him, over bridges which blew up under his feet. However the work went on quickly, and before dark a good strong entanglement stretched across the mouth of the pass, a nasty obstacle to an enemy rush, especially at night. The sappers collected and loaded up their tools, and marched back up the pass, while D. rode to Headquarters to report. On the way he was stopped by a French gunner officer. He had been told that the bridges were to be blown up immediately, and his beloved guns were not yet across them. How was it to be prevented? Luckily D. knew who had charge of that operation, and could reassure him. The Frenchman went off satisfied to look after his battery, perched up on a pinnacle of rock in front of Dedeli village, while D. trotted on to Division Headquarters.

By this time night was coming on and the mist was heavy, but the way was easy to follow. The "Yellow House," in which were the Staff offices, soon showed up through the mist to the right of the road. "Yes, that was all required. No casualties? Good. But D.'s company had already marched out of their billets. Where would they be? Well, it was hard to say exactly.

No doubt they had left a guide at their old billets. Better send on a mounted orderly to see, and if not, try and get news of them at Hasanli cross-roads." So on again. Dark had fallen now, and the mist was intense. From his horse's back D. could not see the road beneath him, but the animal was quite able to keep to the crown of the road without assistance, and there was surprisingly little traffic. On each side of the road an occasional red glare showed where some unit was striking camp. A few miles on he bumped into the rear of his own party, marching, or pedalling heavily laden bicycles. The mounted orderly was not back yet, and the chances were fifty to one that he was lost. So D. rode on alone leaving his party by the road-side. The turning off to Cerniste was hard to find, though it was a main road, and he overshot it twice. In the end he found it, trotted into the village, and found, to his great relief, that Craig was waiting for him in their billets.

Orders to clear had come in soon after they left that morning, and the remnants of the Company left in the village had had to strike camp and load—no light task for so few men. However, it had been done, under the guidance of Wray, the best Sergeant-Major a Field Company ever possessed. They had marched to the Hasanli cross-roads to await further orders, and thither Craig and D. followed. The wagons had been drawn just off the road, and fires lighted, ready for the return of the sappers, who were soon collected. Tea was made, and officers and men settled down round the fires to wait for what the night might produce. A stream of traffic was already flowing down the main road towards Doiran. Nothing was visible, but the roll of wheels and tramp of feet never ceased. A message came in that the

Company would march in rear of the Division, and would next day be attached to a Brigade of another Division, which had come up from Salonica in support. The General's car passed, and Craig was called out to show his maps of the rearguard line. At last, at 3 a.m., the Company moved off, at the slow and uneven pace of the rear unit of a long line of mixed transport. Soon after they started a succession of deep booms far behind them told of the destruction of the Dedeli bridges. An hour later the glare of the burning A.S.C. dump was out of sight.

They halted at dawn, a mile or so short of Doiran, pulled off the road, had some food, and went to sleep. The day broke auspiciously. The mist had cleared, and the sky was more blue than it had been for weeks. Craig went off in search of the Brigadier to whom he had to report, while the rest sorted out the kit hastily packed on the previous day. The Brigadier, when found, expressed his interest and gratitude, but had no immediate occasion for their services, so they lay in the sun very peacefully and dozed. The valley and the Dedeli road were out of sight behind a spur, over which showed the tops of the mountains behind Hasanli, and the occasional crackle of rifle fire told that someone, presumably a French rearguard, was harassing the Bulgar advance. At about 11 a.m. a battery of 75's trotted up the road from Doiran and rounded the bend; the rifle fire quickened, and they re-appeared, and returned whence they had come. Just above the Company's wagons a battery of British field guns were in action, but had not so far fired. Suddenly there was a burst of activity, and a moment later the four guns opened battery fire, their shells bursting in sight on a peak



MOSQUE IN CERNISTE VILLAGE



RETREAT FROM SERBIA.  
FRENCH BATTERY ON THE DOIRAN ROAD.

*Face page 14*



behind Hasanli. The vanguard of a Bulgar flank attack had imprudently crossed the skyline, and duly paid the penalty. Had they attacked from that quarter twelve hours earlier, and been able to reach the cross-roads below them, they would have cut the line of retreat of the Division and of a large number of the French as well.

In the early afternoon they were told to push on towards Doiran, leaving one complete section at Brigade Headquarters. As all sections were much below strength, a composite section had to be formed and detached. The Bulgars had pushed up their light guns, and as the Company marched off shells were bursting over the ridge behind which they had been sheltering. They soon caught up the rear of the main column, and found the pace even slower than on the previous night; a hundred yards march followed by ten minutes' halt. The mist was as thick as ever, but the night was not quite so dark. As time drew on the traffic thickened. The whole width of the narrow road was crowded. British infantry and transport marched beside and intermingled with French guns and wagons. Here and there a flock of sheep or goats, herded by yelling Frenchmen, surged into any open space they could find. Despatch riders, skidding wildly over the slippery slush, dodged under horses' noses and scraped wagon wheels. Along the sides of the road heads of mules and horses, dimly seen through the mist, showed where yet more transport was waiting to pull onto the road. In such confusion it was impossible to keep a unit together. Only two officers, Craig and D., were left. Craig pushed on with the first few wagons which had managed to stick to each other, while D. dropped back to look for two which

had fallen behind. Above all the noise rose the shouts of French drivers, perched on the high seats of their wagons. "E—e—e! O—o—o—ush! Salonique!"

Shortly before midnight an orderly rode down the column with orders for the Field Companies. D. read it with Sleigh, who had turned up from nowhere with a portion of his unit. They were directed to bivouac for the night in "the area bounded by the 'p' in—, the second 'z' in—," etc. After much searching in overfull haversacks a map and a box of matches were produced, and the area could be roughly made out. How to get there was difficult to decide, as they were very uncertain of their own position. They had passed through Doiran some time previously, but the mist hid any other landmark. At some point they would have to turn off the road to the right, and it seemed best to go on and trust to seeing someone else turn off before them, as the bulk of the two companies was known to be ahead.

Sure enough they came in time to a turning off to the right, where two frantic Staff Officers were endeavouring to regulate the traffic. Units were so intermingled that the task was hopeless, but they had to be obeyed. Sleigh was pushed on along the main road and lost, while D. was allowed to turn off with his wagons. They were now clearly in the bivouac area, but the area was large, the mist heavy, and the confusion great, and an hour's wandering failed to find any other portion of the Company. Most of the night was already gone, so D. left his party to sleep, and went to look for Headquarters to get some orders for the morning. He was first directed to Doiran Station; but on his way there was told that they were still in Doiran village, two miles down the road. He accordingly turned and trudged back. Just before he

reached the first houses a French sentry stopped him ; " Il n'y a plus là que l'ennemi." The officer of the picquet was found, and told him that the British Staff had left the town some hours previously, and that the Bulgars were believed to be already in it. He turned back, and looked curiously at a group of Frenchmen carrying another, apparently wounded, across the road. They stopped at a shallow hole by the roadside, and, as he caught a glimpse of the man's face, he understood. It was a strange picture in the mist. The torchlight on the blue capes and helmets, the brown beards glistening with moisture, and the white, quiet face.

Back again to Doiran Station, and here at last he found Headquarters. The Adjutant was sitting in a railway carriage, worn out and half asleep, writing orders in his field message book. All parties must get across the frontier at once without waiting to concentrate. The situation was still to the last degree dangerous. The Bulgars were pressing on, and it was at least possible that the Greeks would attack the retreating army in the rear. Craig had turned up, and was not far away. Once across the frontier they would be in comparative safety, as it was doubtful if the Bulgars would follow. So off went D. again to shepherd his band across the boundary line. His worst troubles now began. He had gone from his party to Doiran, and thence to the station, but the road from the Station to where his party were bivouacked he had not seen. After a struggle he got back into the area, but then the old trouble returned. Once in the area, how to find a particular point ? For an hour he stumbled from fire to fire, trying to recognise trees and bushes. The stars grew pale, and a faint light showed in the east. The



sleeping bivouacs woke to life ; wagons were loaded, and mules harnessed up. Surely his party must have gone already? One by one the groups, large and small, formed up and marched off in the grey dawn. Just as he was about to give up he found them ; he must have passed within fifty yards of them a dozen times.

Twenty minutes later they were on the move. The distance was short. Half way they picked up the section left behind on the previous day. Men and wagons splashed across the brook which marked the frontier. On the other side, on the road, Craig and the remainder of the Company were waiting for them. The Company was told off, found all present, and headed off down the road on the long, dreary trek to Salonica.





LIEUT. I. M. CRAIG AND CAPT. G. E. GILL.  
TAKEN AT STAVROS.

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## CHAPTER III

### MACEDONIA

THE winter of 1915-6 in Macedonia was unusually severe. The blizzard of December, 1915, was never approached during the two succeeding winters, and, even after the blizzard, frost persisted throughout January, which is also unusual. The Company spent their Christmas camped on the Monastir Road, just beyond what was afterwards known as Dudular Station. It could not be called a merry Christmas. There was no time to organise any sort of festivity, for the Brigade was feverishly refitting before going out into the Salonica defences, and the cold, which in England gives Christmas its traditional appearance, is not so welcome when only bivvies or tents are available to keep it out. In addition to drawing Ordnance stores, the establishment of animals was increased, and a batch of mules was drawn from Remounts. The majority, to judge by their behaviour, had never seen a wagon in their lives, and two or three could not be counted as in any sense useful for many months.

By the end of December the bulk of the work was done. Secret orders had informed them that the Brigade was destined for Stavros, the extreme right flank of the defence. Stavros itself is a village of half-a-dozen tumble-down houses on the shore of a bay on the east

coast of Macedonia, nearly due east of Salonica. By road it is only some fifty miles distant, but by sea much further, as the three-pronged fork of land which covers Salonica harbour has to be circumnavigated. The dismounted portion of the Company was to go by sea, while the transport marched across by road to meet them. The scheme was, no doubt, very nice indeed, but it pre-supposed a road which did not as a matter of fact exist. The wagons with Craig and D. headed off gaily up the Serres Road from Salonica and came through the Derbend Pass. Then they had to turn off to the right and keep south of Lake Aivasil, reaching, so the programme said, a village called Langavuk in time to bivouac for the night. But the road turned out to consist in most places of an occasional rut through soft fields, and going was so slow that dark found them at least five miles from their destination. The maps were so inaccurate that it was impossible to determine one's position within several miles, and the wrong names were attached to many villages. After struggling on through the dark for two hours, it was decided to turn off the road and bivouac. The night was so black that a camping ground could not be chosen, and the wagons turned off blindly over the low bank. They all got over safely, though one tool-cart hung for several minutes in the air on the verge of overturning. The horses were unharnessed and picketted, and everyone went to sleep in the best shelter they could find.

Reveille went long before light in the morning. It was the first time that D. had slept out on a night of hard frost, and he found that his blankets were frozen white and stiff, in which latter respect they resembled himself. However hot tea soon drove off the cold, and everyone

was busy harnessing up. As day broke they could see what they had blundered into. Had they turned off to the left of the road instead of to the right they would have been on a good level field, instead of which they had wandered into a wilderness of banks, stones, and half-dug trenches. Still more, Langavuk was close ahead in front of them, half a mile away, though according to their maps it should have been five. The R.A. Major in charge of the column had definitely decided to take three days over the march instead of two, so there was no need to force the pace. They passed through Langavuk and reached a second lake, Beshik Gueul, which is nearly twice as long as Lake Aivasil. Early in the evening the column halted near Pazarkia, a large village inhabited chiefly by Turks, with a small Greek community. (It is the Apollonia of St. Paul.) The horses were watered and fed, and Sergt. Powell, the farrier-sergeant, attended to a poor brute that had developed laminitis during the day. There was time before dark to put up a few tents, and altogether the night was much more cheerful than the previous one.

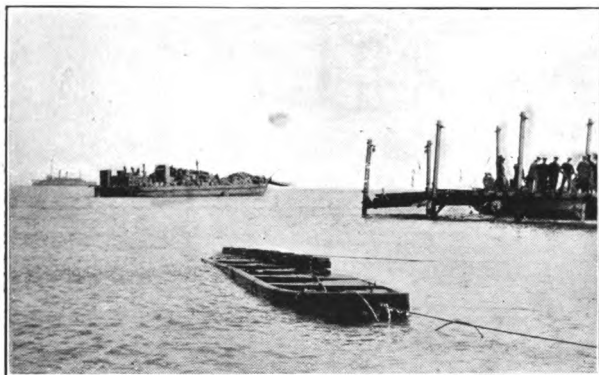
Neither was the morning start so early. Stavros was only some ten miles away. The overflow of the lake runs through a narrow and steep cut through the mountains, and thence across a mile or so of level country to the sea. This cleft is known as Rendina Gorge. Before leaving camp they could see the entrance in front of them. The road ran on towards it, keeping to the lake's edge, and the mountains to the right grew steadily closer, until the road ran on a narrow ribbon of flat ground between lake and mountain. At the entrance to the gorge stood a small monastery, then deserted, and outside it a curious little shrine with wax images in a

glass case. A hundred yards beyond the monastery the road turned sharply to the left, crossed the river by a much-repaired single-span bridge, and followed down the left bank of the stream. Rendina Gorge was the most English scenery they had seen for many months. The river, little more than a brook, ran brown and noisy, and the valley bottom was in places heavily wooded, in striking contrast to the hills round Salonica, where trees are almost unknown. Soon, at a turn in the gorge, the sea was visible, two miles away, with a battleship and two tramps lying in the bay. At the end of the pass the river was recrossed by a very shaky bridge with large holes between the road-bearers, and another half-hour saw them in camp outside Stavros.

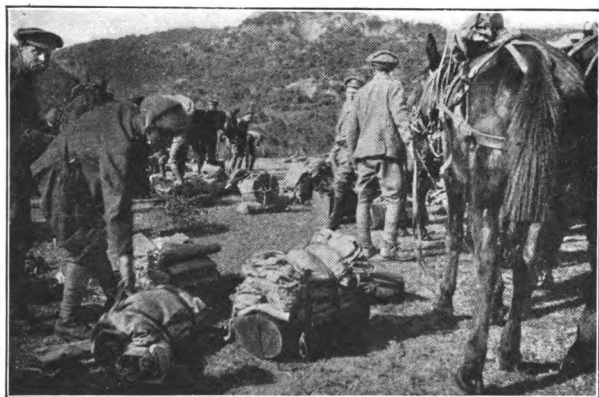
The sappers had arrived before them, as was at once evident. Half a mile north of the village a pontoon pier had been thrown out, and iron lighters, or "beetles," were off-loading at its end. During the next fortnight they gained much experience at this particular job, and gained it with pain and travail. These lighters, the "K" boats, had been built for the landing on Gallipoli. They were steel plated and decked in order to be bullet proof, and they carried in the bows a heavy swinging platform like a draw-bridge, which could be dropped forward to span the gap between the boat and the shore. For their purpose they were admirable, but it was hard to imagine craft more unsuitable for landing stores at a pier of pontoons and trestles. When any sea was running the operation was impossible. The lighters were very unwieldy, and once under way difficult to stop. Again and again their enormous weight crashed into the end pontoon of the frail structure, buckling the baulks like matches, and snapping off the claws. Even when







PONTOON AND TRESTLE PIER, STAVROS.



PACK TRANSPORT. LOADING UP AT JERAKERU.

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she was made fast and working parties were off-loading her, a slight swell would bring the heavy "brow" pounding down on to the thin decking. All supplies had to come by sea, and the work of off-loading was so urgent that it was carried on night and day except when the waves made it impossible.

After two or three days the Company moved up into the gorge and camped beside Brigade Headquarters, leaving Sergt. Claridge and a small detachment at the pier. It was a pleasant camp, looking across the road to the river, pitched on ground rising steeply to the mountains behind. The weather throughout January was very cold; water each morning frozen in the bucket. Rations were poor; bully and biscuit unbroken for a month, and there was of course no canteen of any sort. The only local purchases which could be made were eggs and chocolate, and the latter, at least, palled very quickly; the Mess Secretary's duties were light. Work was plentiful. Gill was out all day with General Vandeleur and his Brigade-Major, Major Anderson. No task was too arduous to daunt the General's inexhaustible energy. At 9 a.m. the two would start out on their horses, accompanied probably by Gill, commanding the Field Company, and perhaps by Capt. Barnwell, then Brigade Machine-Gun Officer. During the day they would cover at least half the frontage of the Brigade, which was about six miles, over country which varied in height from sea-level to two thousand feet, most of it trackless, except where the infantry were hurriedly cutting paths for lateral communication; stopping at each work to consider, discuss, site or re-site a trench or machine-gun; with perhaps half-an-hour's rest at mid-day to eat sandwiches while the horses were fed.

The General had been severely wounded at Atbara, and one of his legs was shrunk and almost useless. Yet he has been seen, when his horse was tired, to jump off and run along the roughest of rough paths, pulling his horse after him, in order to rest the animal. To ride over those tracks at all required courage and good horsemanship, but day in and day out the General and Araminta went round, as often as not at a trot, frequently at a canter. The feat demanded that both man and horse must be made of fine material, and the General's bitterest enemies could not deny that it was a performance which they would not themselves care to emulate. At the end of the day it not infrequently happened that the General would find himself alone, having out-distanced the Brigade Major, orderlies and other attendants.

The sappers were busy running out entanglements to cover the gap between the hills and the sea. The Navy was to co-operate with us in case of attack, and this stretch of ground was left mainly to them. A naval O.P. and wireless station were built up on the hills, and a naval survey lieutenant came to live with the Company while he was working ashore. As soon as it grew dark he began to shiver. We collected all the blankets that we could spare, and indeed more, and heaped them on his bed. There was, naturally, no bedstead. The more we brought the more he shivered. Rugs, great-coats, sacking, newspapers, all were useless. On the first night, Gill, who shared the tent, declared that he was kept awake by the chattering of the poor wretch's teeth. He brought with him a seaman, who carried his instruments and assisted him, and the Company's chief amusement at this time was to watch the sailor learning

to ride a mule. As he said, he could not get the time right at the trot. He counted it aloud, "One, two, three, four," but it was no use. The rise and fall of the mule's back was either too fast or too slow. However, in the end, by dint of practice and perseverance, he managed to get along without suffering too severely.

In the middle of January a draft arrived. The vacancies caused by the heavy casualties in Gallipoli and Serbia had never been filled, and left the Company very short-handed. While at Stavros, Gill attached to his A.F.B. 213 a letter, addressed to the D.A.G. 3rd Echelon, containing a protest more vigorous than wise against this delay. The D.A.G.'s reply came back through "the proper channels"—the Engineer-in-Chief, the Chief Engineer, and the C.R.E.; it demanded an instant apology, and knocked poor Gill out for two days. But a draft came, and a very good draft. It included several regular N.C.O.'s and sappers, among them Sergt. John, a Chatham drill instructor, later for a short time C.S.M., and afterwards R.S.M. of the Division. Another large draft came in February, consisting largely of men of the 13th Division, who had been wounded at Gallipoli and sent away to hospital in Alexandria. It included many of the best sappers, later N.C.O.'s, that the Company ever had.

No. 4 Section went out on detachment to the left of the line, a mile away from the rest of the Company, so as to be nearer their work. D. walked across one evening with some message, and he well remembers how his ideas as a young (very young) officer, fresh from Chatham, were shocked by finding Patteson sitting with most of his section round the camp fire. And he remembers, too, how he slowly learnt, as in war one is

bound to learn, the close and binding tie that must exist in a good unit between officers and men ; a tie that is not fastened by separation and the parade ground, but by pain and danger, heat and cold, hunger and thirst, faced and endured together under equal conditions ; a tie of which the strength cannot be guessed until by death or parting it is finally broken.

No. 2 Section also went out for a short time on detachment to Pazarkia. The line of the Salonica defence had been shortened by including in it the two big lakes, Beshik and Aivasil, and on these it was proposed to run motor-boat patrols. For their use a small pier was required near Pazarkia on Beshik Lake. It was a simple little job, and was finished in three days. Gill rode over to inspect and pass it. It was the first piece of work D. could call his own, and the pride and pleasure of its completion are still vivid. The motor-boat patrol, consisting of a sub-lieutenant, two "snotties" and a few seamen, broke the monotony of eternal khaki, and it was pleasant to hear the sub-lieutenant telling off his two wretched subordinates, as was his chief occupation and pleasure. Bringing the boats from the sea to the lake was a ticklish business. A wagon had to be stripped, and specially fitted to take the weight. The road was very narrow and twisty, and the bridges unsound. It took two days to cover the five miles or so of road.

During the month a brigade of the 27th Division arrived to take over, in order that the 29th Brigade might be recalled for a period of rest and training. The first detachment of the Company left Stavros on the 28th. It consisted of two sections and their transport, under D., with Campbell and Mackie, who had joined during

the month. They trekked back along the road they had come by, halting the first night at Pazarkia, and the second on the shore of Lake Aivasil. On arriving at Aivasil village on the following day, the Brigade went into camp on a patch of level ground just above the small and picturesque town. A large part of Aivasil is built actually in the lake, and is only accessible by boat. The chief occupation of its inhabitants is fishing, and their success was considerable. The boats themselves are very primitive, roughly built, and coated with tar, running at bow and stern to a sharp point like a gondola. All who lived in the village were full of malaria, which was only to be expected when its situation was considered. During the spring many anxious doctors visited the lake's edge to fish out the larvæ of mosquitoes for inspection under the microscope.

No rest was allowed to the detachment. They were swooped upon at once by the newly-arrived C.R.E., Col. Charles, and started on road work between Aivasil and Hortiach. Hortiach is a small village right on top of the hills which separate the Aivasil-Stavros valley from Salonica, and Divisional Headquarters were in the village. The road down was a mere track. At no point on it could two wagons pass, and in many places it was necessary to lash the wheels. Passing places had to be made, drains cut, and better graded diversions put in to take the place of the existing road. Labour was scarce, only two weak battalions being available for four miles of road. The other two were employed in constructing a "switch line" to cover Salonica in case of a break through being effected at Langavuk or Stavros. As soon as the remainder of the Company arrived, with Patteson wearing his Military Cross, two

sections went out on this work, Nos. 2 and 4. No. 2 lived with Headquarters, while No. 4 went out on detachment to a camp on the hills which a goat could hardly reach. There was no enemy for at least thirty miles, and probably much more, so that there was no element of danger in the work ; but the joke about the absence of the enemy and the presence of the general held good, and the work of the unfortunate section was inspected by every general officer from the Corps Commander downwards. And as each wished to carry out his own particular theory of hill defence, there was a wearisome amount of filling up trenches and moving barbed wire.

While the Company was at Aivasil the spring came, and the Macedonian spring is very wonderful. Jerusalem lilies, scarlet anemones, irises blue and yellow, and countless other smaller flowers, whose names the writer did not know. One Divisional conference held to consider on the ground the siting of a difficult piece of trench was found scattered in small groups picking and discussing irises and anemones. With the flowers came out the creeping things of the earth, tortoises innumerable, big green lizards, and snakes, both grass and poisonous. The latter included the horned viper, whose bite is fatal. Scorpions were rare, but their brothers the centipedes abounded. These are not the minute and well-conducted creatures known as centipedes in England, but vary in size from one to eight inches of brown, horny, twisting body and legs, moving as quickly as a snake. If not interfered with they will run across the arm or leg without doing harm, but woe to any one who loses his head and tries to brush them off. They stick in their legs, which are armed with sharp and

poisonous points, and have to be cut off with a knife, leaving a sting worthy of a scorpion. They love moisture and find their ideal home in a sponge bag mixed up with the sponge.

In the same month the storks arrived. The stork is one of the few eastern sights which tradition has not exaggerated. He does exactly as he is supposed to do. He stands on one leg for hours. He builds his flat and shapeless nest on the extreme point of a roof, as German pictures show them, and he makes a noise like a machine-gun by opening and shutting his beak.

At the end of February the Company moved up to Hortiach to train. Nos. 2 and 4 Sections, well content, were left to assist the Brigade in constructing the line. No. 2 moved down to a camp nearer their work, on a spit of flat land at the edge of a stream. It was a pleasant little camp. Wednesdays were the bugbear of the week, for on Wednesday the two outlying sections had to march up to Headquarters to participate in the enjoyment of a day's "Company training." Breakfast in the dark ; parade at early dawn ; march up the hill, six miles and 1500 feet up, in full marching order ; and then Company drill. It may have been wholesome, but it was not nice. No. 2 suffered most severely as No. 4 had moved up the hill, and their morning march did not involve a climb. Company Headquarters were camped on the side of a hill looking straight across at Hortiach, and officers who came on parade with empty revolver cases felt that some Staff Officer with a good glass was sure to spot the delinquency from Division Headquarters opposite. After about a fortnight this scheme was abandoned and No. 2 rejoined the remainder of the Company.



It was at this time that the command of the Company was taken over by Major N. D. Noble, D.S.O., R.E., who commanded the Company for the next two years. It is not the writer's place to praise him, and to any who served under him it is not necessary.

Early in April the Company returned to Aivasil, to a point near their old camp, and went back to their former work. The road down the hills had been much improved, and it was now desired to carry it on to Langavuk. A bridge across the Aivasil wadi was built by No. 3 Section ; masonry piers, carrying R.S. joists. The distance between the piers was ample to allow for any stream that rain might produce in the wadi, which was normally dry. But it was not known that a quarrying party had laid a decauville track across the wadi where it widened out further up. Very heavy rain came in April, and the stream began to grow. Out of sight the water piled up behind the decauville embankment until at last it burst through. The " bore " of the oncoming wave was increased by the rapid narrowing of the wadi. It reached the bridge running six feet high, carrying on its crest timber, debris, and a truck which it had lifted off the line. The whole weight of the flotsam struck the roadway, carrying the girders clean away. Still further down a party of No. 2 were laying wire entanglements in the wadi-bed ; they barely got away with their lives, and lost their rifles and equipment. The rain continued for two days with extraordinary violence, accompanied by thunder and lightning. Tents were blown down or washed away. A large empty box was seen to float quietly out of the Quartermaster's store, and sail away towards the lake. The trenches, fortunately unoccupied, were full of water.



PAYING LABOURERS AT HORTIACH.  
SGT. A. KERR, LIEUT. G. A. CAMPBELL, INTERPRETER.



VILLAGE DANCE IN KIRECHKOI.

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It had been resolved during the winter that all units should be put on pack transport in view of the mountainous nature of most of the country. This was a difficult matter for the Field Companies, owing to their large amount of technical equipment. It is easy to sling two boxes of S.A.A. across a mule, but a pit-saw and a lift and force pump are not so easily dealt with. Various receptacles, called "kajawahs," had to be devised to carry such things, and for over a month a small party of N.C.O.'s and men slaved at these devices, headed by Macdonald, who had exchanged into the Company in place of O'Brien. When these preparations were completed, the whole Brigade went out on a sort of small manoeuvres to test them. The Company marched out to Jerakeru where they joined up with the Brigade, and for the next four days the Brigade Group, complete with Sappers, Gunners and Ambulance, wandered among the hills north-east of Salonica. It was an admirable test for the pack transport, and proved its usefulness. Various small changes were effected, but none of great importance, and for the next year and a half the Company stood or fell by its pack mules.

Once back at Aivasil work went on as usual, but not for long. Suddenly, at the end of May, orders came to pack up, march along the lake shore to Ajvatli, a village on the Serres road at the end of the Derbend Pass, and there join in with the Division, who were marching from Hortiach through Lembet to the same point. They started early on the 1st of June, and a singularly disgusting march it was. The sun was fiercely hot, and the dust stifling, and there was the usual misery of marching in column. Near the Serres road they were met by the pipe band of a regiment in another division, who played

them into camp. The last few hundred yards were up a nearly vertical hillside, and there were dreary bunches of men of the unit before them waiting at the bottom, having fallen out in despair. Fifteen miles with a full pack under such conditions is a strenuous test.

Here we heard a little more of what was happening. The whole Army was advancing, the British on the right, then the French, Serbians, Italians and Russians. We were expected to get into contact with the enemy in the Struma Valley. The Division was to march up the Serres Road, headed by the 29th Brigade, and in front of the Brigade was to move an advanced party, under the Staff Captain, to prepare camp sites. No. 2 Section was detailed to accompany this party and arrange water supplies, starting in two days. The following day was occupied in water reconnaissance. Fagan and D. rode out as far as Gevesne, at Kilo 37, and were lucky enough to find an old Roman aqueduct running full-bore into a wadi bed.

The march up was pleasant enough. It was a small party, which always makes for comfort. The marches were long, and the sun hot, but there was not much work to be done on arrival. The first day they reached Gevesne, and camped to the east of the road, near the water. A pump for the drinking-water was soon put down, and a small dam put across another wadi to make a bathing-pool, the usefulness of which was at once proved by the men who made it. The camp abounded in insects. The flies were a full inch long, red and green, with big eyes, and flew at both horses and men. Their bite raised a lump on the flesh that was painful for several days. In the evening in their tent D. remarked to Fagan that a mouse was sitting on his bed. Fagan,

who was closer, looked round, and his hair stood on end with horror. On closer examination it was found to be not a mouse but a creature like an enormous flea with a long sting for a tail. From the tip of his sting to his nose he was over four inches long.

Early next morning the Staff Captain sent across for D. He went and found a group of officers poring over a copy of the "Balkan News," a small paper locally produced. It contained the first news of the Battle of Jutland. D. carried back the paper and read it to the section. It contained only the brief Admiralty communiqué, and a list of British ships sunk or missing, but it provoked none of the pessimism that the same announcement did in England. Everyone looked on it as a victory, and only wondered how it was that any ships at all had got back to Germany. On the same day the rumour first spread, and was heard with universal disbelief, that Lord Kitchener was dead. Even after the sinking of the *Hampshire* had been officially reported "K." was still said to be alive. That it was a blind, and that he would suddenly reappear in Russia or France; or, again, that he had been assassinated in England, his body put on the *Hampshire* and the ship sunk with all hands rather than admit the truth.

The next day they marched to Likovan, up and down long steep hills, through which the road twisted and turned. The Serres Road was referred to as "the Road" by the British in Macedonia in the same way as the Romans in Britain must have spoken of "The Wall." It was *The* Road, the only road. There was no other entrance on the south side of the Struma Valley. Built before the war by contractors, it was only intended for the light traffic of gharries, pack animals, and cars. The

British had to put on to it the lorry transport of an Army Corps, and as soon as winter came the road became in places impassable to anything short of a "Four-wheel drive" lorry. The grades were very steep, and pits feet deep formed in the road from the wear of the heavy wheels. Trains of G.S. wagons were put on to supplement the Mechanical Transport, and it says much for both services that during the winter of 1916-7 the fighting troops in the valley were never actually short of rations. At this time the surface was in excellent condition, as there had been no traffic over it. Road parties were working up as far as Likovan, putting in a more solid bottom in anticipation of later requirements.

The water supply at Likovan was small and its development difficult. The advanced party was joined in two days by the Brigade, but the Company was not with them. They had been left behind at Ajvatli to help other units there. The Brigade had suffered severely during the march up, several men having died of heat-stroke and exhaustion. At Likovan they were put on to road work and got two days' comparative rest.

The march out was very sudden. Orders came late at night and the Brigade moved off at dawn. The Bulgars had made a move forward, and it was expected that we should be engaged by the end of the day. It was the finest march the Brigade ever did. Not a man fell out. After five months hard, dull labour, only varied by "intensive" training, the prospect of a fight was doubly welcome. The long columns of fours wound on, keeping step as on parade, laughing, singing, forgetting the dust and sun. After a two-hour halt at mid-day, they rounded the last corner, and the Struma Valley lay below them. The Rupel Pass was clear, and

Demirhissar, and scores of other villages, which they were to know very well later on. They trailed down the long hill, expecting every moment to hear shots somewhere ahead, but nothing came, and the Brigade went into bivouac at Kilo 69. The Section was allotted a loathsome piece of ground, dusty, smelly and foul as it could be. A detachment of French Senegalese, the garrison of the valley, had camped there previously, and where the French colonials have passed, no British unit should camp. However, there they had to go.

Next day the battalions moved out to the river line, covering the three bridges across the river ; Kopriva, towards the upper end where the Butkova joins the Struma ; Orljac, where the Serres Road crosses the river ; and Komarjan, towards the river mouth, near Lake Tahinos. The frontage of the Brigade was over twenty-five miles. On the following day the Company arrived, early in the morning. They had marched up from Ajvatli, a distance of fifty-eight kilos, in thirty-eight hours, without losing a single man on the way. They had occasioned great surprise to the Staff by marching by night, but this very quickly became the custom.

The sections followed out into the line almost immediately. The Bulgars had come as far as Demirhissar, but no further. The bridge-heads had to be put in a state of defence as early as possible, and the bridges themselves prepared for demolition in case of necessity. No. 2 Section went to Orljac Bridge and camped among the trees right on the river's edge about four hundred yards below the bridge. The trees and the closeness of the stream made the camp a little cooler than other places, but even so the heat was very trying. Work



during the middle of the day was abandoned, and the men went out from 6 till 10 and again from 4 till 7. Charges were prepared, put in position under the bridge, and connected up. Men were sent to assist the infantry to wire in their bridge-head trenches. A barricade was put across the road to stop a possible rush by armoured cars. There still remained work unlimited to be done. The danger of heavy casualties from malaria was known, and it was proposed to build mosquito-proof huts on piles, six feet above the ground. Work was started, but the huts were unfinished when they came away. It was also desired to put wire entanglements in the whole length of the river bed, and miles of it were actually laid. We appreciated its efficacy when, four months later, we had to swim the river to attack. At the same time it was an admirable occupation. To spend the broiling day stark naked, swimming or wading in the river, was the best way of keeping cool one could ask for. D's only complaint was that the current was so strong that it was impossible to swim against it ; otherwise he could have visited all his parties by swimming up and down. As it was, it would have entailed walking back along the bank in a highly inadequate costume, and possibly meeting the Brigadier.

It was on Orljac Bridge that D. met the Army Commander. In the subsequent unpleasantness were involved the Corps Commander, the Divisional Commander and the Brigadier. It was not D.'s fault, and the apology he afterwards received was ample compensation. Not many second lieutenants can claim to have received an apology from a full General commanding an Army.

It was from Orljac Bridge that Corpl. Bourne went sick with malaria. He was one of the small group in

the Company of old soldiers who had served together in South Africa. He had always been No. 2 Section's tool-cart man, and was the best the Section, or Company, ever had. He fought it for a week, and then was taken away. He recovered in hospital at Salonica, suddenly relapsed, and died three weeks after he left us. Malaria by this time was decimating the Brigade. Battalions were down to three hundred, two hundred, and even less. The Company suffered less severely, as they did not have to stand to at dawn and dusk, and No. 2 was specially lucky, but No. 3, who went down to Gudeli Ferry with an officer—Campbell—and forty-three men, came back with Campbell and two men, and of these Campbell and one man went to hospital next day.

From Orliac Bridge No. 2 relieved No. 1 for a short time at Komarjan Bridge, and then were relieved in turn by a section of the 85th Company. The Brigade was withdrawn to rest at Dremiglava, back down the Serres Road towards Salonica. There is no need to describe the march, or that short period of rest. It was very pleasant, and short leave to Salonica could be had. At the end of August they started off on a mistaken rush for Doiran, but after one day's marching were headed back again to the Struma. The Bulgars had really done something at last. Coming away from their mountains they had crossed the valley, over-run the small French posts, reached the line of the river, and in places crossed it. In early September the Company found itself back near Mekes; the 29th Brigade in reserve and the 30th in front of them holding the line of the river. Mekes itself was frequently shelled, and the time had come to get on with the war.

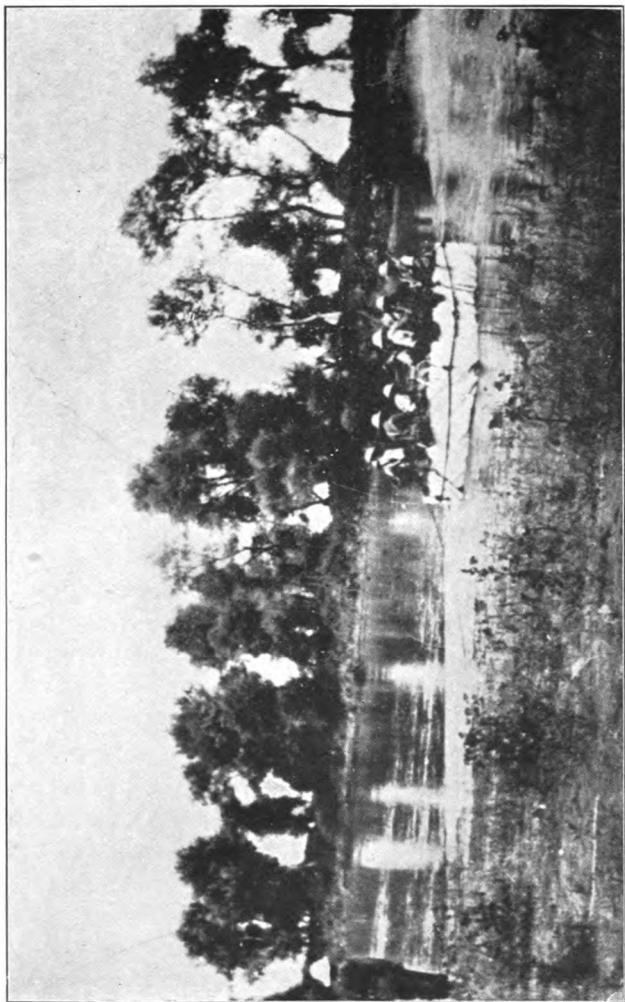
## CHAPTER IV

### MACEDONIA

SEPTEMBER 10th, 1916, was a hot, windless day of Salonica summer. The Struma, fallen to less than half its size in the spring, still ran fast, and in places deep ; brown, eddying and treacherous. A mile below Orljac Bridge the river is fringed with trees, the width of the belt varying from single trees up to fifty or sixty yards of thick wood. On the south bank the ground rises slowly towards the foot-hills ; to the north the plain stretches away for ten miles towards Serres and Demir-hissar, and on this plain stand many villages.

The Serres Road, then the only metalled road in the valley, runs past Orljac, across Orljac Bridge, and on almost straight to Serres. On the north bank of the river and between it and Serres stand the villages of Mazirko, Jenikoi, and the two Karadzakois, Zir and Bala, in that order starting from Orljac Bridge. The country is all flat, and intersected with sunken roads, which afford considerable cover to moving troops. Trees are scarce, and occur only singly. The soil is fertile, but the climate very trying ; great heat in summer, and all-pervading mosquitoes ; while in winter, though there is little snow, the overflow from the river turns the whole valley into a marsh. Behind Serres rises the highest point of a range of hills, which drop slowly to Rupel. Through the Rupel Pass runs the Struma, and beyond it





PARTY OF 6TH INNISKILLINGS CROSSING THE STRUMA SEPTEMBER 10TH, 1916.

*Face page 39*

rise the Belashitza Mountains, dark, rugged and precipitous, running out of sight to the west and Doiran.

Under cover of the trees two canvas rafts were working backwards and forwards across the river. They were made of white tarpaulins, intended for water tanks, stretched across wooden frames and bottomed with corrugated iron. Each was attached by means of a pulley block to a stout hemp cable stretched across the river and anchored at each end either to a tree or to an artificial holdfast. The attachment was so made that the angle of the side of the raft to the stream could be altered, so that the current assisted its crossing. An additional lighter line was made fast to the rafts themselves, and gangs of men on each bank pulled them to and fro. Already some hundreds of men of the 6th Inniskillings had been ferried across, and were lying in the undergrowth on the north bank, under cover of a low *bund*, which served to contain the river's winter overflow. Another quarter of a mile down the river a similar pair of rafts were working, and below them again yet another. At each the crossing of the infantry was nearly completed.

Up to this point the Bulgars on the north bank had shown the most singular complacency. Their main line covered the villages of Jenikoi and Karadzakoi Bala, averaging three-quarters of a mile from the river bank, but their outposts were considerably in front of this, and the fringe of trees, though nominally in "No-man's land," was habitually visited by their patrols, and was much more their ground than ours. So far they had shown no sign of life, and had allowed rafts to be put together, launched and worked, without protest. But now an occasional shrapnel began to burst over or near

the rafts working further down stream. The gunners were clearly uncertain of their ranges, for their fitful fire caused very few casualties.

As the crossing was completed the British guns began. Battery after battery, concealed behind the woods on the south bank, opened fire, their F.O.O.s perched up in the trees trying to search the advanced posts and trenches. At the two first rafts the infantry deployed behind the *bund* and broke cover, making towards Jenikoi village. Rifle and machine-gun fire at once opened on them, and the Bulgar gunners left their fruitless searching of the river and turned on to the new target. The "overs" came across the river and sped on their way the sappers, who were hastily loading up their pack-mules, their work accomplished. The section officer and his sergeant had stayed on the other bank to watch the advance from the cover of the *bund*, but could see little, as the grass was high and very thick. However, they found they could be seen, as two bullets from some sniper concealed in a tree plunked into the earth just in front of them, so they withdrew gracefully to the other bank and went to see how the rafts lower down were working.

Meanwhile the infantry in the open were being severely handled. Snipers in the trees picked off the officers, cleverly hidden machine-guns enfiladed and held up the advancing lines. Casualties were difficult to handle, for while the cover of grass and maize was high enough to make the finding of a wounded man difficult, it was not sufficient to hide the stretcher-bearers carrying him away. A dressing-station had been erected under cover of the *bund*, and there the wounded had to lie, as the fire was too severe to permit any attempt at evacuation

across the river. All through the hot afternoon the infantry lay out in the open, sprayed with bullets and shrapnel. The retirement had been fixed for 8 p.m., for the operation was a raid only, and to attempt to withdraw by daylight would have been to court heavy casualties. As the hour drew near, our own gun fire, which had slackened during the afternoon, rose again. Those who waited on the river bank could hear above the crash and scream of the field guns behind them, the steady unceasing whine and moan of big shells passing in both directions overhead as the heavy guns on each side tried to silence their opposite numbers. Every few minutes an "over" or ricochet thudded into the bank or tore through the undergrowth with the rending scream of torn calico. Once a premature from an 18-pounder crashed into the reverse side of the bank, to the extreme discomfort of those who had taken cover behind it.

As the light failed the infantry streamed back, fording the river a little further up stream in order to leave the rafts free for the evacuation of the wounded. The latter was a slow and difficult business. The stretchers had to be man-handled down a steep and slippery bank into the raft, and on the other side lifted off on to a sand bank. Both rafts were much the worse for wear, heavy and waterlogged, and on one the pulley block was jamming. Whenever this happened a man had to wade and swim out to set it right before the journey could be completed. Luckily the Bulgar fire had almost ceased, and caused no interference.

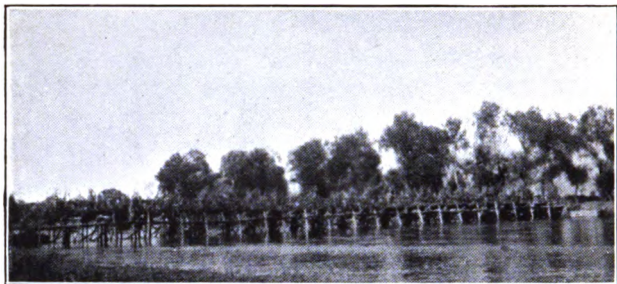
Under cover in rear the ambulances were waiting. But not all those who were hit that day went back in them. When, three weeks later, secure in the knowledge



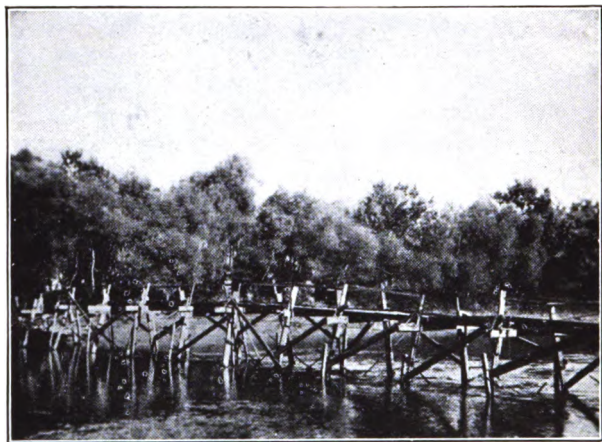
gained in these and other raids, we crossed the river, broke the Bulgar line, took his villages, and drove him back to his hills, here and there in the corn a carrying-party stumbled over the body of one of those who had not come back.

Three weeks later the ferry crossing was the scene of great activity. The two rafts were still there working, and, in addition, a footbridge had been thrown across the river. Barely twelve hours before the infantry were due to cross to the attack, a sand-bank was found to have formed in the bed of the stream. A loaded raft could not cross it, and a bridge had to be erected, as the passage of the river at that point was essential. Timber had been collected from the remains of the dumps ; piping, corrugated iron, anything which could help. Nothing but scraps could be found, as two bridges only had been budgetted for, and these were already almost completed. At 3 p.m. sufficient material had been collected, and a section of the river bed taken, and the construction of the trestles began. They were made partly of timber, and partly of piping ; the road-bearers were decked down with corrugated iron, and the *tout ensemble* of Jungle Island Bridge, as it was christened, would have made Heath Robinson laugh. All the same, it was ready at midnight, some hundred and twenty yards of bridge, and, though it was not pretty to look at, it allowed the infantry, loaded with their fighting kit, to cross the river without danger of falling in. Putting out the trestles had not been easy ; the current was swift, the bottom uncertain, and the night cold, for it was late September. Many of the sappers had been working breast-high in the water for three or four hours at a stretch, and when they came out were unable at first to





JUNGLE ISLAND BRIDGE. BUILT OCT. 1ST, 1916.



CAMPBELL BRIDGE. BUILT OCT. 1ST, 1916.

walk or even stand. Some rum was procured, which gave them back enough life to let them walk back to camp, but several of the best of them did not recover for many months from that night's immersion.

The remainder of the section waited to watch the infantry cross. At 2 p.m. they began, led by the Brigadier. To the section officer, standing at the far end, the column of men in file seemed endless. The iron decking had been covered with earth to deaden the tramp of feet, and the path through the trees had been marked out with sandbags for fifty yards on each side. The bank at each end of the bridge had been ramped up with earth, so that there was no step, but nevertheless a maddening whisper of "mind the step" was continually starting, and being passed back down the line. The path from the bridge ran for the first hundred yards under cover of the *bund*, and then crossed it, and the infantry deployed in the open on the far side. Their task was not themselves to attack, but to cover the left flank of another brigade, which was to storm Karadzakoi Bala at dawn, and then push on to Zir. Two more bridges had been built lower down for the crossing of another division, and many rafts were running as well.

At 4 a.m. the officers were riding up the hill towards Mekes and camp. It was too far for the Company to march, and they bivouacked on the river bank under the Second-in-Command, while the other officers rode back with the transport and brought down the remainder of the personnel and equipment to the river in the evening. It was already light, though the sun was not up, and the valley was filled with white mist, through which showed the tops of the trees round Bala and Zir. The British guns, already registered, were opening their

bombardment. Flashes began to break out among the tree-tops, and steadily quickened, until over the two villages the flicker of flame was unbroken. But a bombardment of which they are not the object will not keep awake men who have not slept for forty-eight hours, and they were soon asleep.

When they went back to the river that evening they heard what had happened. Bala had fallen to the first attack with little resistance, but Zir, full of well-hidden machine-guns, had twice held up the Brigade attacking it. At 4 p.m. a third assault was delivered, and two Scotch battalions, played into action by their pipers, seized the village, but at considerable cost. On the left the 29th Brigade had moved forward about a mile from the river without much resistance, and dug in, their flank turning back to the next bend in the stream. The work before the Company for the night was the consolidation of this line, with a pleasant probability of being heavily counter-attacked in the middle of their work. The officers went out at dusk to look at their task, while the sappers loaded up pack-mules with wire and pickets under cover of the *bund*, where Company Headquarters was for the time located. All was quiet in the front line. The infantry were already to a large extent dug in, with a good field of fire over the flat plain, but no wire was yet out. Work was started as soon as the stores came up, and went on steadily till 1.30 a.m.; by that time there was an obstacle along the whole of the line sufficient to stop a rush in the dark.

All through the night occasional flares had been going up along the line. Suddenly half-a-dozen went up in quick succession in front of Zir, and a moment later heavy rifle fire broke out and spread to right and left.

At the same time, first a red light, and then a green soared up and slowly sank. The rifle fire increased in volume as the barrage came down, and continued for ten minutes. We learned afterwards that the Bulgars had crawled up unobserved to within a few yards of the wire on which a section of another Field Company, the 66th, was working. Then they charged straight into the entanglement. Several sappers were killed before they could throw themselves down, and the rest had to lie close while machine-gun and rifle fire tore over their heads. Some of the Bulgars actually crossed the wire and were bayoneted on the parapet. D., away on the left flank, pushed his section back into the trenches with the infantry, for the counter-attack might be coming at more than one point, and bullets from beyond Zir were already coming down thick in dead enfilade. The Bulgar guns were firing wildly into the British area, and doing little harm, while the British shells worked havoc in their reserves coming up to support the attack.

The following night was spent in much the same way, but under still less pleasant circumstances. Very heavy rain began in the evening, and when the time came to load up, the darkness and rain combined made it impossible to see anything. Loading a restive mule with coils of barbed wire by sense of touch in pitch dark and torrents of rain, standing ankle-deep in water, is neither a pleasant nor a rapid operation. One sapper, Borton, was thrown into a heap of barbed wire, and disappeared into hospital for several months. However, it was done at last, and D. and his section slithered out to the left along the river bank. At first they tried to keep to the top of the *bund*, but after falling down each side of it

two or three times, they found it better to keep to the narrow strip of bog between the *bund* and the river. Progress was enlivened by the presence of an unlimited number of holes from which the soil had been taken to build the *bund*, and which in the darkness it was impossible to see until you fell into them. It must have taken an hour at least to travel that half-mile. In the end they reached their goal, a machine-gun post, which had to be wired in, and from this wire another fence had then to be run to meet the next post, some five hundred yards away. The sappers started on the immediate work, the mules went back to fetch up more wire, and D. started off with Corpl. Poole to find the next post. They had no compass, and their only guide was a large tree, known as "Lonely Joe," near the trench they had to find. Except during an occasional flash of lightning it was impossible to see two yards. For half-an-hour they walked in silence, probably going round in a circle, and then caught a moment's glimpse of a large tree a long way from and *behind* them. They stopped to consider. If that were "Lonely Joe" they were pleasantly situated right in front of their own trenches, and experienced men do not walk into their own trenches from in front on a pitch-black night. However, there was nothing for it, so back they trudged, their hearts in their mouths, waiting for the challenge which they probably would not hear; but, as they drew nearer, the tree grew more familiar, and they presently discovered they were back at Company Headquarters! The path from here to "Lonely Joe" was comparatively well marked, and they followed it without difficulty to the trench they wanted.

Here they found Major Noble, who gave D. confidentially

the consoling information that a strong counter-attack during the night was considered to be certain. And the pair struggled back to the machine-gun post. There they found that the mules had not yet returned with a fresh load, and that wire was running short, so D. walked back alone to hurry them up. As he got near Headquarters the counter-attack began, away to the right, and the bullets came whizzing over the *bund* as he walked below it. At the same time Campbell appeared, walking along the top of the *bund* with some of his section. "Come down!" D. shouted. Campbell came, but just as he got under cover he spun round, and fell full length, shot through the head. Luckily it was close to camp, and a stretcher and an electric torch came in a few minutes. The bullet had entered at the side of the eye, breaking the bone, and come out through the neck. He was carried into camp, and sent away to the Clearing Station, where the eye had to be removed. We heard a few months afterwards that he was back in England, and found the inconvenience slight. His loss was sorely felt in the Company.

The counter-attack was driven off, and work for the night abandoned, as another counter-attack during the night was improbable, and the line was to be advanced next day. Everyone who could turned in, and got two or three hours' sleep.

The following day the village of Jenikoi was to be taken. The 30th Brigade, who had been out of the line for a short rest, were to advance at dawn through the 29th, capture the village, and consolidate a position in front of it. Three sections of the 65th Company and two of the 66th were to go up during the morning and assist in this consolidation. Large infantry carrying



parties had been detailed from the 29th Brigade to go up with the sappers and carry wiring materials. Two sections of the 65th were to go to the right of the village, and the other three sections to the left. They would report to battalion commanders, and get to work independently.

The infantry attack went off successfully, and took the village with little opposition, though suffering some casualties, especially in officers, from snipers. But though driven from their very strong positions in front of the village, the Bulgars did not retire far, but kept up an accurate and irritating sniping from cover in front. Under these circumstances the choice of a good line was difficult, and the line actually taken up, instead of being a broad semi-circle, was a sharp V, inverted, so that bullets from certain directions would take the two arms in enfilade. The Serres Road divides the village into two unequal portions, the smaller portion being to the north of the road. The line, then, ran in front of this portion, and back across the road to the right flank, the left flank being covered by the advance of another division. The Headquarters of battalions remained to the south of the road, getting what cover they could from sunken roads and banks.

The sections and carrying parties met in the morning at the dump by "Lonely Joe," and while they were loading up, the first shell fell among them, killing a doctor and chaplain of another Division. The shell, probably a 5.9, was clearly visible as it fell, rotating round its shorter axis. It fell with its base to the ground, ricocheted, fell fifty yards further on with the point downwards and exploded. The writer has never seen such a case before or since. The carrying-parties started out, keeping on a broad front, each column led

by a R.E. section. Shell-fire was at once opened on them, but much of it was H.E., which, in the soft, boggy ground, did little damage. Their shrapnel was more effective, and the carrying-parties suffered a good deal, though the sappers had only three slight casualties. Gill, who was leading one section, said afterwards that he kept on repeating to himself, "They may hit the column, but they can't hit the point!" and that it comforted him considerably. Behind the village they all lay down, while the officers went ahead to see how the land lay. From this point we must follow the two flanks of the village separately.

Major Noble and Gill found the Battalion Headquarters and came back to bring up the two sections with Fagan and Macdonald. When the sections arrived with their carrying-parties, the sniping was close and accurate. Nevertheless, they started work and ran out an entanglement in front of the line during the early afternoon. At length the firing grew so hot that they had to get down into the trenches with the infantry, having already lost Fagan, shot through the wrist; Sergt. Ogston, who, though shot through the arm, carried on, until again shot through the throat; Corpl. Burke, twice wounded, and several sappers. As they got into the trenches another sapper, Catchpole, was killed by a bullet through the head. Macdonald had a lucky escape, a bullet passing through his steel helmet from rear to front, knocking him to his knees, but without touching his head. By this time a determined Bulgar counter-attack, the third during the afternoon, had penetrated the point of the V, and the battalion line had to swing back, pivoting on its right flank, to conform to the movement of the battalion on its left.

On the left flank D. had led up his party and found the Headquarters of the left battalion in a sunken road, where many dead, both British and Bulgar, were already lying. Anyone who showed himself was sniped at once from close range, and the Battalion Commander decided that it was useless to attempt to put up wire, with which decision D. was in hearty agreement. Two sections of the other Company were already up there, so the three sections got under the best cover they could, and waited for some improvement in the situation. At about 3 p.m. the artillery fire suddenly increased in intensity on both sides, the Bulgars in particular unmasking several heavy batteries, and making the village shake with bursting crumps. The enemy had already penetrated the front line, and then came a disastrous misunderstanding. A local retirement was ordered to isolate the break-through, and the order spread unintentionally through the whole battalion and beyond it, altering as it went. Once the centre had broken, the rest could not stay, and the whole line withdrew from the point of the village to the left, sweeping back through Battalion Headquarters and away into the cover behind. Only the Colonel remained, with his Second-in-Command, R.S.M., and a few officers, with three or four Lewis guns, mostly out of action.

When this began D. was at Battalion Headquarters, some thirty yards away from where the sappers were lying. Telling the Colonel that there were at hand at least sixty men he could rely on, he ran round the corner to find them, and found none there! Hardly believing his eyes, he looked away to the left, and there saw his section sergeant, Rawlins, waving to him. In the first rush all three sections had been swept away, but

Scammell, of the 66th, had stopped the greater part of his section, and Sergt. Rawlins had kept together the whole of No. 2 of the 65th, and got them into a good fire position in a sunken road. Not a single man was missing. For this very fine feat of leadership he was awarded the Military Medal.

These sappers and the few remaining infantry were at once able to open fire on the enemy, whose main attack was then about four hundred yards away, closing rapidly to two hundred. Here they were finally held, both by the rapid rifle and machine-gun fire, and by the intense and accurate barrage sent over by our 18-pounders in spite of the fact that two F.O.O.'s had already been killed. A strong party of the enemy established themselves in the front portion of the village, and it appeared from the way the bullets were coming in enfilade that some had actually crossed the road. Our heavies were quickly concentrated on these few houses, and they visibly fell to pieces as the big shells burst among them. The retirement from the point of the line was covered by a single Vickers' gun, which remained in action, served by one officer only, whose equipment was riddled with bullets, until almost surrounded, when it was successfully withdrawn.

The next hour was very trying. Rifle fire had slackened, but the shelling was still heavy, and a fresh attack might come at any moment. Urgent messages for reinforcements had been sent back, and it was a moment of great relief when the mealie-stalks behind were pushed aside, and Major Graham, of the Irish Rifles, walked out into the sunken road, followed by the first platoon of the battalion in extended order. They were followed by the 6th Leinsters, led by Col. Craske,

and the safety of that portion of the line, at least, was ensured.

In the evening, at about 7, it was decided by the G.O.C. to withdraw the line to its original position, as the firing was still very hot, and the confusion almost indescribable, as Sappers, Rifles, Leinsters, and stray men from at least four other battalions were mixed up in the same portion of the line. D. heard the order from a friend, and went to Col. Craske to get it confirmed. The Colonel, his eyes blazing, and moustache bristling, was so angry that he could hardly speak. He had already insisted on having the order in writing. He, Colonel Craske, C.M.G., D.S.O., and his battalion to retire! "Yes, it is true. Get your men away at once." Though this was not quite all that the Colonel actually said. So back they went in the dark through the mealies. The section had only sustained one slight casualty during the day, which was in accordance with their usual luck, though every other unit concerned had suffered considerably. On that day the title of the Fighting Section passed finally and for ever to No. 2.

When they got back to their camp by the river bad news was waiting for them. The only officer in was Waller, who was looking after the bridge. The little he knew was soon told. Fagan had passed through shortly before, on his way to the ambulance. Major Noble, Gill and Macdonald, with the other two sections, had not come in, and nothing was known of them or the battalion with which they were working. It was already midnight; nothing could be done. D. turned his section in and went to bed himself.

He woke next morning to find the three missing officers asleep beside him. The order to withdraw

issued in the evening had been almost immediately counter-ordered, but all the battalions had already moved except this particular one. Consequently they found themselves alone with their left flank completely in the air, or only covered by what the C.R.A. afterwards referred to as his sector of the line. The Colonel, misled by the cancelled order, was lost, and for the greater part of the night Major Noble found himself in command of the battalion and of other stray parties who had remained in the village. All firing had ceased and the night was quiet. Had we only known it the Bulgar was running helter-skelter for the hills on his side of the valley, and making furious endeavours to extricate his heavy guns from their boggy positions. The night passed without further attack from either side, and in the morning the infantry re-entered the village without opposition, and took up another line in front of it.

So ended the battle of Jenikoi. The cost to the Bulgars had been very heavy as compared with ourselves. Over a thousand bodies were buried directly in front of the village alone, while they lost as many again at Zir and Bala. We had now secured possession of a good bridgehead at Orljac, and of a strip averaging five miles in width on the north bank of the river. We were thus in a position to attack the enemy's main line of defence in front of Rupel and Demirhissar.

## CHAPTER V

### MACEDONIA

KALENDRA is a small and much-battered village about half a mile from the Serres Road, and opposite Kilo 79. That is to say, it is more than threequarters across the plain and closely overlooked by the Bulgar mountains. Just in front runs the Drama-Serres-Demirhissar railway, on an embankment up to twelve feet in height. Serres is three miles away to the right, and Demirhissar six miles to the left.

During the winter 1916-17 Kalendra was a most unpleasant place. But its unpleasantness was trifling compared to the unpleasantness of Kalendra Woods. There were two Woods : North Wood, to the left, and South Wood, to the right. At Kilo 78 a small stream, dry in summer, ran under the road through a big arch culvert. Along its banks ran South Wood, starting from the road, and following the zig-zag course of the stream for half-a-mile. It was in no place more than fifty yards in depth, and the big trees, bare for twenty feet up, gave no cover from view or anything else, but served as a perfect aiming mark to the observers opposite. Beyond South Wood came a gap of half-a-mile, and beyond that again was North Wood, which closely resembled South Wood, but was rather smaller. Kalendra village lay five hundred yards in front of North Wood, in a line at right angles to the course of the river. Between

the village and the Woods was a stretch of flat, open country, intersected by sunken roads, which in winter were turned into rivers by the overflow of the stream referred to, called on the map the Belica. But these effects were not realised until they actually occurred.

Nos. 1 and 2 Sections first made the acquaintance of this charming neighbourhood. Three nights after Jenikoi had been taken it was decided to push up a battalion into the Woods to act as outpost to the main line which was being consolidated in front of Jenikoi itself. A Yeomanry patrol had visited the Woods during the day and reported them clear. The tactical appreciation was sent to the Commander of the battalion in question, but the Company received instructions more direct and less elaborate. The road near Kilo 77 had been cut by the Bulgars to stop the passage of our armoured cars. A party of sappers and some limbers of road material were to go out that night to make good the road.

The result was decidedly humorous. Six rattling, clanging limbers of road metal and two sections of sappers, after a long march from Jungle Island Bridge, turned into the road in Jenikoi village at about 10, and, all unwittingly, cut in between the "point and flankers" and vanguard of the advance guard of the battalion, who were making a "night advance" of the most correct kind on the Woods. The "point" was crawling with hideous stealth along the ditches, and it was some time before D., who was at the head of the sappers, could understand what was happening. At length he was approached by an officer of the battalion, who apologised for intruding, and began to explain. He had only joined the battalion two days before, from England, and, of



course, didn't know much about these things. But he was in charge of the advance guard, and was it usual on active service to have a convoy of wagons between the "point" and the vanguard? Before there was time to explain, the Colonel arrived, much out of breath, and not at all pleased, and the wagons had to pull up until the main body of the battalion had passed. The Woods were occupied without incident, and the gap in the road filled in.

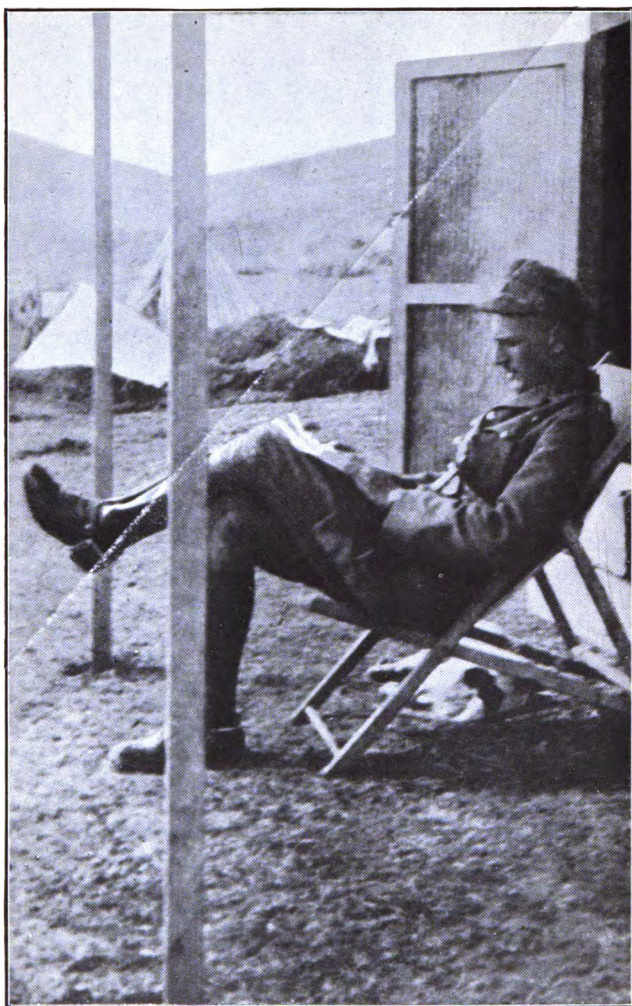
The next night more serious work had to be done. It was reported that the retreating Bulgars had blown in the culvert at Kilo 78, and that an unexploded charge was still in the roadway. There was also a large amount of wiring in to be done. So it was decided that the right half company should go up and live there for a few nights, and see the work through. On their arrival the first job was to get the charge out of the roadway. The tamping on top was removed, Macdonald slipped out the detonators, and the explosive was taken out. It was an assorted collection; gun-cotton in hexagonal slabs of various sizes, and blocks of a brown substance like almond-icing. The electric detonators were hardly bigger than matches. The charge that had gone off had damaged the bridge considerably, blowing in a large part of one haunch. A special party of carpenters, under Corpl. Frostick, was told off to repair and strut it, and the road was fit for transport again in thirty-six hours.

The wiring took longer, for there was a great deal to do. The main line of resistance was first wired in, and then each outpost separately. The former was protected by apron fences, doubled, but there was neither time nor material to do the same for the forward posts, and they were surrounded by belts of French concertina wire,



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MAJOR N. D. NOBLE, AND JUMBO.

*Face page 57*

with or without pickets, run out, picketed down, and entangled with a few strands of barbed wire. Where it was possible a second belt was added, ten yards inside the first, but even one belt was quite enough to stop a rush in the dark. D. noticed a curious psychological fact in connection with laying out long enfilade wires for machine-guns in this area. It was only possible to do so at night, and it was then done by putting a screened light at one end of the line and walking to it from the other end, dropping a picket at intervals as he went along. When he looked at his work in the daylight he found that the line was never absolutely straight. It always bulged away from the enemy, sometimes so slightly that it was scarcely visible, sometimes quite distinctly. Unconsciously he had always chosen the "safe" side when there was any obstruction in the ground, and by the time he reached the middle of a two hundred yards fence, he would be anything up to four feet out of line. In the second half, walking towards the light, he would automatically get nearer and nearer the true straight until he returned to it at the light itself.

It was hard work. Out in the evening at 6; work till 4 or 5 a.m.; bed till perhaps 9; breakfast; out with the Major from 12 till 3 to look at the job done and the job to come; tea and dinner combined at 5; and out again. With a billet or even a decent bivvy to go back to, it would not have been so bad, but their home was in the (more or less) dry bed of the Belica, and the situation was too exposed to put up any good cover. The sections were under a big tarpaulin, carefully camouflaged, while the officers shared a pack-sheet. Rain was frequent, and fires for cooking could only be lit between dusk and dawn, as the smoke would have drawn shelling at once.

There was little interruption to the work, but on one night Macdonald and half-a-dozen sappers were very nearly cut off by an enterprising party of Bulgars who followed them back from the village to South Wood, trying to work round their flanks. The last night was the worst. No. 2 were out on the other side of the road, wiring in the extreme right outpost. At midnight a thunderstorm came on, with violent rain. D. broke off work, collected the party, and tried to march back to the road, across perhaps four hundred yards of trackless marsh. The darkness was by now intense, and the party could only keep together by holding on to each other. After over an hour's wandering and waiting a flash of lightning showed up the embankment and telegraph poles that marked the road. They struggled up the side and headed back for South Wood. An occasional flash of lightning showed up the road in a white glare, and made them expect a shower of bullets, but none came. Between the flashes it was black as ink, and everyone was soaked to the skin. But they knew that the wagons were waiting at South Wood to take them home, and plodded ahead cheerfully. Twice D. walked over the side of the road and fell down the embankment. At last they reached the repaired culvert. Handrails had been put on, and one of the party, Sapper Henstock, grasping the rail firmly, walked ahead. But it was the rail on the left of the road, and not the right, as he thought, and he was consequently outside it. There was a shout, a rattle of falling stone and a thump ; and he found himself, uninjured, sitting in the dry river-bed ten feet below !

After those five days came a respite, which was very welcome, for the section had had no rest at all since the

crossing of the Struma a fortnight earlier. The only work to be done was the maintenance of Jungle Island Bridge, now enlarged and made fit for limbers. Unless the river rose very suddenly, as it once did, one could count on a night in one's blankets and in a bivvy. On that one occasion the flood came down at about 11 p.m. The river rose two feet in half-an-hour, and brought down masses of weed, rubbish, and flotsam. Two sections were turned out to try and keep the trestles clear, and the floating material was actually packed so tightly above the bridge that the sappers were standing and walking upon it as they tried to break it away with axes and crowbars. The only other exciting episode was when an enemy 'plane, flying at a great height and unperceived, spotted the Company on morning parade, and dropped a couple of bombs, which missed their mark by two hundred yards and did no damage.

For the next four months No. 2 Section were almost continuously alone on detachment. Their first move was to Baskoi, a very small, red-roofed village, high up on the hills overlooking the plain. The Brigade was sent up there for a short rest, and wanted a section with them to look after their water supply. Thence they moved to Mekes, where they rejoined the Company for two days ; and then on to a camp behind Orliac Mound, to assist in building Corps Headquarters. It was on the day they marched there that Lieut. R. D. Pank, M.C., joined the Company.

After a fortnight at hutting, with a section of the 66th Company under Craig, they went back into the line. The Brigade frontage was from Elisan on the left to Nevolien on the right, a distance of about four miles, with a forward outpost at Topolova. Two battalions

were in the line, the Rifles, and the 1st Leinsters, who had recently joined the Brigade from the 27th Division in exchange for the Hampshires. The line was already fairly strong, but dug-outs were few, except in Kukuluk village, where the Bulgars, before their hurried departure, had constructed some very fine ones, of which we were glad to make use. The wire was continuous, but the trenches were not, as the garrison would not have been sufficient to hold them. The Brigade from which we took over had been working on a system which did not suit our arrangements. At each post a single sapper had met a very bored and inert working-party, with which he did what he could during the day. But, however high the average sapper's intelligence is supposed to be, there are few who can run single-handed a large party of infantry. So the system was changed, and the infantry did the simpler work themselves, with one of their officers in charge, while the sappers worked three or four together under an N.C.O., with such infantry to assist as the job in hand required. It was a heavy task for one section, for the Topolova outpost alone took up half their strength.

Topolova, in spite of its position, was a good place to live in. It lay about a mile in front of Nevolien, in a narrow belt of trees, and our old friend, the Belica River, ran across its front. It was in theory a very dangerous and exposed position, and the crimson rambler rarely flowered in that neighbourhood, while it was abundant in the main Nevolien-Kukuluk line. Two strong redoubts had been dug on each flank of the village, and running from them, a diamond of wire entanglement completely enclosed the houses. Each of the four faces of the diamond was enfiladed by a machine-gun in

one of the redoubts. The garrison, a company of the Rifles, lived in the village in great comfort. Except under extreme provocation, such as large columns of smoke, the Bulgar never shelled the village, and there was sufficient debris lying about to provide ample firewood, which was never the case further back. And if a house did by accident collapse, there were no rude salvage or staff officers to make minute enquiries as to how it occurred. In case of alarm, the garrison manned the two redoubts, while the guns behind put down a barrage on the houses, which were sure to be the object of any attack. The redoubts, as they stood, were impregnable; the only danger was that the Bulgar might one evening blow them out of existence, and attack as soon as night fell, in which case he might have been successful. But to conceal them was impossible, and every position must have its weak points. D. lived there with a dozen sappers for a week, and enjoyed himself thoroughly. Before reaching the village it was necessary to walk or ride across about six hundred yards of perfectly flat, bare, plain, without a scrap of cover. Straight above the visitor towered the Bulgar villages with their trench lines in front; Savjak, Menelik, and Kula Topolka. Those who lived in the village knew that a single horseman could ride across as safely as if he were in Hyde Park. But the unwelcome visitor did not know. He felt the field-glasses opposite concentrating on him; he could hear the hurried orders: "One degree more right, shrapnel, load." And as often as not his discretion overcame his valour, and the would-be visitor went away; and all visitors to outposts are unwelcome.

The work too was interesting. Two bomb-proof O.P.'s were required, one in each redoubt. They had



to combine a big field of vision, both vertical and horizontal, with concealment as complete as possible. The chambers were only made large enough to take two men sitting, with a very narrow, roofed, entrance through the parapet of the redoubt. There were plenty of logs at hand from six to ten inches in diameter. The walls were built solidly of these, and the roof began with two courses of them, laid at right angles to each other. Then came a thick cushion of three feet of earth, followed by a "burster" course of broken tiles six inches thick, stone not being procurable. The top was thinly covered with earth and sods. When they were completed the level of the top was slightly below the level of the parapet behind. Neither of them ever, while the Brigade was there, received a direct hit, but if they had they should have given a good account of themselves.

There were other small jobs to do ; revetting, drainage, and the like. Hours for the sappers were easy ; from early dusk, about 4 p.m., to midnight. And there was always the pleasure of listening to other people fighting. The Rifles sent out a standing patrol every night to Prosenik, a large village a mile north-west of Topolova. The patrol had to cross the Belica, and then the railway, and sit all night in Prosenik ; and as the same area was a hunting-ground of the Bulgars collisions were frequent. A still better amusement was to listen to the Bulgars fighting the Turks. At Kula Topolka the right of the Turk line joined the left of the Bulgar, and every few nights a patrol from one would meet a patrol from the other and engage it, both sides believing that they were in contact with the British. On one occasion they had quite a high-class battle, with guns, bombs, and rifles complete. A deserter who came over a few days later

told us that both sides had had many casualties. Desertions from the Bulgars were frequent. They were very badly fed, hard worked, and discontented, and preferred to take the chance of a bullet to staying where they were. We heard that our aeroplanes used to urge them on by dropping in their lines pamphlets with pictures of loaves of bread, joints of meat, and other good things! At times messages were exchanged direct between the lines. A piece of paper pinned at night to a certain tree would be taken away the next night, and an answer sent in the same way. To our propagandist literature, they replied by cheerful and more or less accurate accounts of affairs in Russia, Roumania, or on the Somme. Every paper they sent over contained the statement that they had no quarrel against the British, and it was certainly true. No case ever came to our notice of shelling of the Red Cross, or of ill-treatment of wounded. And it is a fact that games of football behind Elisan were never interrupted, even when attended by a crowd, while a column of troops even further back, or a battery, would be instantly and ruthlessly shelled.

The section left Nevolien and Topolova in time to rejoin the Company on Christmas Eve in billets in Orljac. But they only stayed a fortnight, during which time they were working on a Decauville track near Kilo 74. The road from Kilo 74 to Kopriva was impassable to wheeled transport, and the chief work of the Company from November till February was building a road and laying a track along this eight miles. It was just after Christmas that Sapper McKee was killed, the first casualty the Company had had since October. A "sniping gun" was being pushed up for a day to Kalendra Wood, and three sappers went out under Corpl. Calvert to fire small

charges in the open between Kalendra and Topolova to try to deceive the Bulgars as to the position of the real gun. They were entirely successful, and drew shell-fire immediately. Before they could withdraw McKee was killed by a shell which burst between his feet. He was buried in Nevolien, close to the house which had lately been No. 2 Section's billet.

When the Brigade went back into the line, No. 2 Section again went with them. This time they were in the sector to the right of their former one. They covered from Karadzakoi Zir to half-way between Jenikoi and Nevolien. The line was by now very strong, but more dug-outs were required, mostly bomb-proofs, O.P.'s and better machine-gun emplacements. This sector also included an outpost in Kalendra Wood, and when a large amount of extra work was required there, No. 3 Section was sent up from the Company to assist, first under Pank. When he was recalled to Headquarters to take over second-in-command, he was followed by West, a former sapper of the R.N.D., who was succeeded in turn by an officer whose stay in the Company was brief but exciting, and then by Macdonald. No. 2 were billeted in Mazirko, a few tumble-down houses on the right of the road just beyond Orljac Bridge, and No. 3 lived for the greater part of the time in Kalendra Wood.

If Kalendra Wood had been beastly in October, it was ten times more beastly in February. The rain and snow had stimulated the Belica to life, and the only shelter available was in its bed. Accordingly a dam had been put across it above South Wood, which kept the bed below comparatively dry. The water turned off towards Kalendra, and spread itself over the sunken roads, doing no harm. Then came a period of very





IN KALENDRA CHURCH.  
TURK CAPTURED BY 6TH ROYAL IRISH RIFLES.

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severe rain and the river flooded. The dam stood firm, but the bank a short distance above burst, and the water, creeping round the dam, found its way back below it into its old bed. Up there next morning rain was falling steadily and mercilessly. The stream, which the night before had given cover to an odd two hundred men, was running fast and strong, level with its banks. In the field behind crouched or huddled the wretched garrison. Half their equipment and rations had been lost in the sudden rise of the stream. Between the Wood and Kalendra stretched a solid sheet of water, only an occasional bank showing out. The detachment in Kalendra church was completely cut off. Worse still, they had no cover at all, and if the Bulgars had chosen to shell them they would have been wiped out. Luckily, the Bulgars, too, had other things to attend to. No. 3 Section were in the same case, or, indeed, worse ; for all except two or three men had been out at work when the river rose, and almost all their equipment lay at the bottom. It was wet ; it was cold ; it was absolutely and completely hopeless. It was just exactly the time when the Brigadier turns to his Field Company and says " Well, what are you going to do about it ? "

A good deal had to be done. The next week was strenuous. No. 3 Section was taken back to Mazirko ; half of them were sick, and the remainder worked on the main line under Bartram, of the 1st Royal Irish, attached to the Company on probation for transfer. No. 2 still lived at Mazirko, but went out every night to work at Kalendra. The first thing to do was to throw a bridge across the Belica under cover of the trees. Two trees were felled across it, and a decking of corrugated iron put across them. Once ribbons and handrails were

added it was slippery, but fairly safe. Next communication had to be restored with the church. The wide sheet of water which stretched unbroken from the Wood to Kalendra covered several ditches and one sunken road of considerable depth. Their exact position was not known. The only way was to walk ahead knee-deep in water until you fell in, and there make a bridge. The transport difficulties were great. A loaded wagon could not even get up to South Wood, and from there everything had to be man-handled. The ditches were easy to deal with once they were located. A couple of road-bearers thrown across, with corrugated iron decking, did the business, but the sunken road was more difficult. Piles had to be driven and a proper bridge put up. Every night the section tramped up the long road from Mazirko to Kilo 78, some five kilos. Greatcoats were not allowed, as they were too much of a hindrance to action, but everyone had leather jerkins and heavy bag gloves. A jerkin is an almost ideal dress for such work ; it keeps the body warm and fairly dry, without in any way interfering with the use of the arms and legs. The work was cruelly hard. Infantry carrying-parties were too dispirited to be of much use, and most of it had to be done by the sappers. Thigh-boots were too awkward to work in with comfort, and ordinary gum-boots were worse than useless, as they gave no warmth at all. The best plan was to wear the jerkin over a short jacket, and boots, puttees, and trousers. When one did get wet in this kit, one kept fairly warm. Let the reader try carrying a nine-foot sheet of corrugated iron on his head for fifty yards, knee-deep in water. He will find that his neck and head feel as if they had been beaten with a hammer. Then let him imagine doing the same thing

for seven or eight hours, with variations of falling into ditches, and trying to nail together timbers ; all at a temperature of just above freezing point. He will form some idea of what that night-work meant. In the early morning they marched back, each party going off independently as it finished work. D. usually came last with one of his N.C.O.'s, Poole or Forshaw ; tired, happy, longing for bed ; well-contented, for the work was thought much of by those behind. Away from South Wood, round the bend at Kilo 77, up the straight to Jenikoi village, and the barrier across the road ; through the battered, ruined, houses ; round the last turn ; and so to bed. Perhaps it was in that week more than any other that the section drew together and was bound into a solid whole which included everyone from the section officer to the section cook, who kept the fire ready for them in their billet.

At the end of a week No. 3 went back to Kalendra, under Macdonald, and started on the less urgent work. New trenches had to be dug behind the old positions, and elaborate screening put up among the trees to hide them. Inside the battered and desecrated Church dug-outs had to be built sufficient to accommodate the whole garrison, for the Church was now being shelled daily. No. 2 were glad to stay back and take a turn on the main line. They had good billets and easy work, and joined up for social purposes with the 29th Machine-Gun Company in Jenikoi. The sappers and the machine gunners had often worked together on the emplacements, and during this winter No. 2 belonged just as much to the 29th M.G. Company as it did to the 65th Field. Essinger threw open the M.G.'s Canteen to the sappers, and it was taken as an insult if D. failed to take at least one



meal a day in the M.G.'s Mess. In return, when a Red Hat wanted to change the positions of all the machine guns, D. came to Barnwell's assistance with a flood of "technical reasons" why they should remain where they were. Everyone enjoyed that stay in Mazirko.

The great event of the winter on the Struma was the Kopriva Pantomime.

Six o'clock in the evening on a dark night ; snow and slush everywhere. Away across the Struma an occasional flash of gun or shell-burst. Along the near bank, the Decauville track. Down the line towards Orliac a light appears, and approaches rapidly. Presently the jingle of harness and rattle of hoofs can be heard, and a truck drawn by three mules comes past at a sharp trot. The truck is hooded over, and the glow within shows that it is occupied. It is the G.O.C. going in state to see the Kopriva Pantomime ! Arrived at Kopriva, it pulls up. The General alights, and is helped by his A.D.C. over a plank across a lake of mud several feet deep. They plod painfully on to a big barn, through the chinks of which light is escaping. They go in.

They are in a small ante-room, warmed and lighted. Across one end runs a bar. A bar ! in a country where the canteen is hardly known. Through a curtained door at the side a stairway runs down to the auditorium. They take their seats in the stalls. In front, the foot-lights are blazing on the drop-screen, over the head of which is inscribed : *Dulce est desipere in loco*. The big building is packed long before the band strikes up the overture from "The Mikado." Then the curtain rises.

The play would have passed muster in any London Theatre. It is a real pantomime, mixed with songs from the London revues. In England those tunes are known

in every street ; to us they are new ; it is years since we left home, and it seems like centuries. During that time we have not seen a town ; only endless wastes of bare mountain and squalid, ruined, villages. The show takes us by the throat. Kitty comes forward to sing ; Kitty, the pride of Salonica, the perfect flapper ; we refuse to go later to her dressing-room ; the illusion is too precious to break by finding her puffing a pipe. She sings in a trio :—

Long is a lane that never turns ;  
Hope is a star that brightly burns ;  
Back in the land of old John Bull,  
We'll reckon our wages paid in full.

The air is borrowed from the beautiful “ Nothing venture, nothing win ” of “ Patience.”

Three hours pass like ten minutes. Then a last drink, a leave-taking, and ten miles to ride, drive, or walk back to camp.

## CHAPTER VI

### MACEDONIA

IN March the Brigade came out of the line and moved across to a sector further to the left, relieving a Brigade of the 28th Division. This sector reached from Elisan on the right to Barakli Dzuma on the left. Elisan was a large and pretty village a mile from the Struma, seldom shelled and little damaged. Barakli Dzuma, on the other hand, was little better than a heap of ruins. It had once been the largest and most flourishing town in the western end of the valley, but it was too close to the vital point of the Bulgar line to escape molestation. The narrow streets were shelled day and night, chiefly with shrapnel, which caused considerable casualties among the troops inside. The line ran just in front of both these villages ; very strong, with continuous wire, good dug-outs, flare-alarms, and in many places long stretches of continuous trench. It had been occupied for several months, and the garrison had constantly been at work improving it. On the left the lines were about six hundred yards apart, but they then diverged until opposite Elisan there was a gap of two miles between them.

In this gap, a mile in front of Elisan, lay Kumli, and another half-mile forward, Kupri. Both were small and very ruinous. A mile and a half to the left of Kumli was Barakli, also small and ruinous. These villages were being patrolled by the British and the Bulgar, neither of

whom were anxious definitely to take possession. The only other building worthy of note was Dolap Farm, a large substantial farmhouse, through which passed the main line. It belonged, curiously enough, to an Englishman, who was actually serving on the Struma. The enemy had it accurately registered, and soon taught us that it was a neighbourhood to be avoided. Behind the line were three more villages : Ormanli, a straggling set of ruins behind Barakli Dzuma ; Haznatar, a few houses among some trees set in the bend of the river ; and Cavdar Mah, which was little more than a heap of bricks, half-a-mile from Kopriva Bridge.

A few days before the move, a party rode over from the Brigade to look at the sector. It was composed of the General and the Brigade-Major ; Capt. Barnwell, commanding the Machine Gun Company ; Major Noble, Pank, and D. from the 65th. It was a long ride across country, but the General wasted no time, and where he put Araminta the rest had to follow. Crossing Kopriva Bridge they rode up to Elisan. The roads were terrible ; pot-holes, lakes of standing water, rickety bridges, and no direction-boards. In front of Elisan the line was inspected, but accident followed accident. Major Noble, much interested in an automatic flare device, bent over it and pulled the trigger. Automatic alarms usually fail, but this one immediately went off up his sleeve, scorching his arm, but doing no other damage. When the excitement had cooled down they went on, and less than ten minutes later D.'s horse stepped into a well-concealed funk-hole. The General turned round to shout : " Foolish fellow," and as he did so Pank's horse crashed into another. The whole area was covered with them. The horses were extricated, and the party

carefully picked their way back to the road. The General decided to put his Headquarters in Elisan, and suggested Cavdar Mah for the Field Company, so they rode across to look at it. From a distance it appeared to be nothing but a heap of ruins, but on closer approach a sort of model village was disclosed. A Territorial Field Company had been in occupation for some time, and had made themselves extremely comfortable. Digging down four or five feet, they had built a square of small cottages, brick-walled and iron-roofed. They had bunks for all their men, and a bath-house, while the officers' quarters were magnificent. Separate rooms, each with its own bed and fireplace. Tiled floors, glazed windows ; even lace curtains !

The Company's move from Orljac to Cavdar Mah was slowly and painfully performed. It took many journeys to transport the accumulated treasure of sand-bags, iron, and timber. When it was over, the transport remained at Kopriva, on the south bank of the river, as there was no cover at all at Cavdar Mah to hide them. Two small detachments went out from the Company, one to Elisan, to start a workshop, and one to Dolap Wood, to put in some new dug-outs. The detachment at Dolap came within an ace of being wiped out. They established themselves in a row of splinter-proofs behind Dolap Farm, next door to the battalion dressing-station. On the same evening the Bulgars dropped a 5.9 fairly into the roof of the dressing-station, and blew it to pieces, killing everyone inside. It was soon found more convenient to work everything from Headquarters, and the two detachments were recalled.

As soon as the Brigade had taken over the line, preparations began for a big attack about two months

later. The villages in "No-man's-land" were secured first by night patrols, then by standing patrols, and were finally wired completely in and held by large garrisons. At the same time, the guns were pushed up, first sections and batteries of 18-pounders and 4.5" hows., and finally 60-pounders and siege guns. Between the villages chains of posts were dug, and occupied at night, to prevent any attempt to encircle the village. Work on the main line stopped altogether, and parts of it were even dismantled for use further forward.

A very heavy share of work fell on the R.E. All guns forward of the main line had to be dug into emplacements and made proof against a 4.2" at least. Only one battery did this for themselves without assistance. And this left a battery of 60 pounders, a section of 4.5" hows., and a brigade of 18-pounders for the Company. An enormous amount of splinter-proof cover was required by the infantry, and the Brigadier further insisted that all his wire should be laid out by the R.E., and its erection supervised by them. Behind the line there was also plenty to do: small bridges, roads, dug-outs for Headquarters; O.P.'s for the artillery; and many other incidental jobs. The Company worked roughly in groups of two sections. Two sections always on night-work in the line, Nos. 2 and 3, working in half-sections, as men cannot for long work all night and every night. Thus two half-sections were out each night, and two in. Those in spent the following morning making dug-out frames for their own work next night. The other two sections took on the work behind the line, and were used in emergency for night work as well. The sappers did not do too badly on one night in and one night out, but the night out was a thorough one. Parade 7 p.m.;

march out two or three miles ; work steadily till dawn began to show at 4 a.m., and then clear out and get away as quickly as possible. It was heavy work for the two section officers, who were doing up to nine nights out of ten. Macdonald had to replace the Adjutant, who was on leave. Marr was doing roads and bridges, partly by day and partly by night. Fagan, who rejoined at this time, was working on survey. Gill had to arrange the nightly transport, and keep the workshops going ; and as twenty or twenty-five wagons were used every night, and about three thousand feet run of timber, he had his hands more than full. This left only Pank and D. available for regular night-work. Dug-outs were standardised as far as possible. Two were loaded complete in each limber, with frames, revetting, struts, iron roofing and nails. Each half-section, with infantry working parties, could put in eight to twelve of these in a night. No. 2 certainly put in most, but No. 3 claimed, perhaps with justice, that their workmanship was better. The trying hours of the night were between 12 and 2 : the energy of the previous day was exhausted ; that of the new day was still to come. It was impossible to arrange a hot meal out on the work, pleasant though it would have been. By 2.30 the dawn could be felt ; by 3 the night was at its blackest ; by 3.30 the stars were growing pale ; and at 4 the first faint grey of dawn was showing over the mountains above Serres. Then came a hurried packing-up ; a march back through wet green fields and corn ; breakfast, for which, strange to say, one had at that hour no appetite, and bed till mid-day.

Even a night in bed was likely to have its disadvantages. After one such night the two officers were met at breakfast by a message that the C.R.E. wanted to speak on the

telephone. Every one else was out, so Pank answered it. One of the 6" hows. had received a direct hit during the night. This was nothing unusual; but the roof, instead of standing or breaking, had bulged, and the gunners thought it might be strutted without replacing it. So the two went off to look. The 6" hows. were in Barakli, in emplacements built by themselves of green timber. As they rode up it became more and more clear that Barakli that morning was a bad place to visit. Once a minute there was a crash in the corner of the village by the battery position as a big crump came down, mingled with salvos of shrapnel at close range from field guns. Leaving their horses in the trees behind, they walked up very cautiously, taking advantage of the cover there was. The garrison had all gone to ground and not a soul was to be seen. Waiting till a crump fell, they ran across to the emplacement and found the gunner officer inside. The gun had not been touched. A 5.9" shell had dropped square in the middle of the roof, which in theory at least was not strong enough to stand it. The gunner—Brinsley—who had built it was an architect, and his work, though sound enough, was most unusual. His roof was an interlaced mass of round timber, strutted and tied in every direction; and because it was green, instead of breaking, it had bent; and the gun could still be used. Once a minute, far away, came a report from "Savjak Sam." Then after several seconds, the low whistle, rapidly increasing, ended in a crash which shook the emplacement. He was within fifty yards every time, and had scored several hits on the outer walls. Under these circumstances it was difficult to discuss lucidly strengths of materials and similar subjects, but it was agreed that



a new bearer must be put in, and that to do so it would be necessary to take off a large part of the roof. An hour that evening was fixed for the working-party, and the two slipped off again. As they passed the howitzer section in the village, a salvo of shrapnel screamed over, and they threw themselves under the wall of a house. From there they got out of the village without mishap, and were walking across the open towards the horses, congratulating themselves on their luck, when another dozen small crumps dropped all around them, luckily in soft ground where the splinters did not fly. They went home at a canter.

The prospects for the night's work looked rather blue, but until the morning the sappers were allowed to work unmolested and get the bulk of the work done. In the morning "Savjak Sam" opened again suddenly, and blew to pieces the rifles and equipment stacked at the door of the emplacement without doing any harm. Two days later the same roof received another direct hit from a 4.2" without turning a hair.

The 60-pounders in Kumli had an even worse time. The Bulgar, or more probably Austrian, gunners had perfect observation of these forward villages. They looked down into them both from in front and from the left flank, thus getting an excellent right-angle resection of the gun positions. They used this advantage magnificently. The 60-pounders were so strongly emplaced that they could only be damaged by a hit through the embrasure, and at such long range this was almost impossible. All the same they succeeded in doing it, and knocked out one gun, while they were constantly blowing in ammunition recesses, dug-outs, and communication trenches. The gunners everywhere suffered

severely. They had to live beside their guns, and it was a favourite trick of the Bulgars to shell steadily with big stuff during probable meal hours and then shut up. Five minutes later they would turn on every field gun within range, and deluge the place with shrapnel, hoping to catch, and often catching, men going across the open from and to the cook-house. Their most formidable gun was "Savjak Sam." He was a 5.9 with a very long range, who lived in a cave above Savjak. He would run out on rails to the mouth of his cave, and fire half-a-dozen rounds at some distant target that tickled his fancy: an unwary "Archie" battery down on the river; the kite-balloon; Orljac Bridge; once, with a great effort, he made a series of magnificent holes in the aerodrome at Orljac, who thought they were at least a mile out of range of any gun. But that rash act was his undoing. A 6" gun was painfully dragged up from Salonica, and hidden in the trees behind Kopriva Bridge. When all was ready a 'plane went across to Savjak, and the 60-pounders fired a few long-distance shells at the mouth of his cave. Sam came out in outraged majesty to deal with these interlopers, and the 6" fairly caught him. He never fired again. Exactly what happened is not known. Possibly the mouth of his lair was blown in, and he lies buried in his own mountain.

St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, arrived soon after the Brigade took over. It was stated later that the Bulgar Staff had determined on that day to drive the British back across the Struma. At mid-day an intense bombardment opened all along the front. Barakli and Kumli, occupied by patrols, were hidden in clouds of white smoke, but at this point the Bulgar infantry failed. Not a man was seen to leave their trenches, and

half-an-hour later the bombardment died down. Ferdinand himself is supposed to have been somewhere on the hills to watch the attack which failed to materialise. Instead of annihilating two divisions, it did not cause a dozen casualties.

Our offensive, preceded by a three days' bombardment, was to have begun on the 15th of May. On the 13th it was cancelled. A few raids were carried out instead, the biggest being the capture of "Ferdie Trench" by a battalion of the 28th Division, and of the village of Kupri by the 6th Irish Rifles. The latter was a very enterprising and successful affair. Kupri lay about a mile in front of Kumli, and the line ran half-way between the two. The battalion attacked half-an-hour before dusk in line of companies. The leading company, under Captain French-Mullen, cleared the village with no difficulty, and took up a covering position two hundred yards in front of it. The few Bulgars who formed the garrison did not wait for the bayonets, but ran for dear life as soon as the barrage showed them an attack was coming. A certain number of casualties were caused by shell-fire while the light was still strong enough to help the Bulgar guns. The second company followed in support of the first, and spent the night consolidating four strong points in front of the village, which they held next day. The infantry did their own digging and wiring, and one section of the Company, No. 2, was to try to put in three dug-outs in each work before daylight. Wagons loaded with the dug-out frames were brought up in the evening to the Kumli line, and four N.C.O.'s went up with the four platoons of the support company. When they had seen the positions selected for the strong points, they went back and guided

their wagons as nearly as possible to these points. In three cases the wagons were taken within ten yards of the works ; in the fourth case it was impossible to get the wagons within two hundred yards, and the necessary carrying, which had to be done by the sappers, delayed them very much. Unfortunately the only possible wagon road ran through the village, and by the time they got there it was heavily shelled, causing delay and a certain amount of confusion. It was undesirable and risky to take wagons straight up behind an attack in this way, but no infantry could be spared for carrying, and there was no alternative. The results obtained justified the means employed. By dawn two dug-outs had been put into two of the works and completed, and one into each of the others. In one case the delay was caused by the long carry ; in the other, by striking very hard ground for digging. The shelling went on all through the night, but caused no harm, as it was all directed at the village itself, which was unoccupied. The infantry worked furiously all night, and made their posts thoroughly defensible. Major Graham was everywhere ; driving, encouraging, getting into communication with the posts pushed out by other battalions to cover his flanks. The sappers cleared off at dawn, having had only one man scratched, and it was then that the garrison suffered. As soon as light came the Bulgars opened a heavy bombardment of uncanny accuracy on the four works, and under its cover pushed forward three strong counter-attacks which were all beaten off by our barrage and Lewis gun fire. Their retreating waves left behind, close up to the works, snipers, who made communication impossible ; and the guns then proceeded to concentrate high explosive on the works

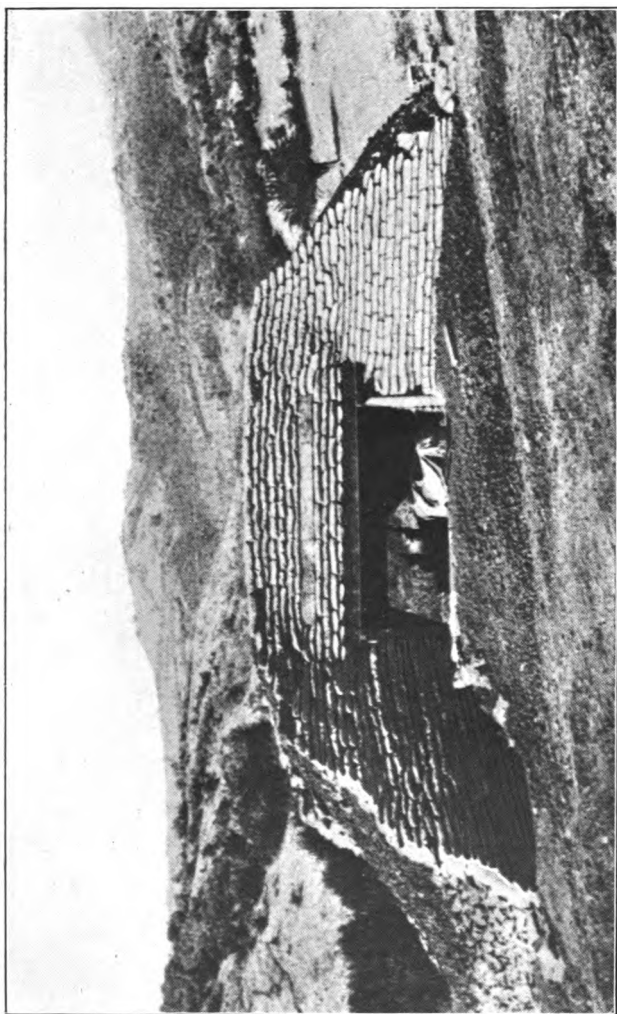
themselves, and blow them to pieces. The two right posts had good natural cover and escaped lightly, but the two on the left showed up terribly ; dark chocolate earth on a flat green field ; and in two hours there was hardly a man in either of them unwounded. They held on with the greatest courage and tenacity until at last the 60-pounders in Kumli were allowed to fire, and in ten minutes had silenced every field gun in range. In the evening the posts were withdrawn into Kupri village, and the works outside abandoned as untenable, which they certainly were. The splinter-proofs which the section had erected undoubtedly saved many lives, and they protected the severely wounded both from further damage and from the great heat of the sun throughout the day.

Owing to the very heavy casualties from malaria during the previous summer it had been decided to withdraw all troops from the valley by the end of June. In consequence all the material put into the line had to be removed. The actual dismantling did not take long, but the transport required was enormous. Wagons were impressed from the gunners and the train, and the nightly convoy stretched from Kopriva Bridge to beyond Elisan. Kupri was first evacuated, the garrison being replaced by a few snipers under Lieut. Michael O'Leary, V.C., of the Connaught Rangers. The abandonment of Kupri gave rise to another piquant incident which cannot be related. Then the outpost line was abandoned, and finally only the bridge-heads at Kopriva and Artillery bridges were held, while the army withdrew to the hills south of the Struma.

When matters had settled down the Brigade found itself stretched over ten miles of mountain ranging in



3



60-PDR. EMPLACEMENT FERRY HILL NEARING COMPLETION.

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height from fifty to three thousand feet above the Struma, Company Headquarters was at Paprat, high up on the plateau, in a beautiful camp that caught every breeze that blew. Two sections, Nos. 1 and 3, were at Headquarters. No. 4 was at Fountain Hill, another excellent camp far away to the left and even higher up. No. 2 were down at Cavdalar village, a village about three hundred feet above the Struma. One battalion had to stay there as escort to a section of 60-pounders, and it fell to the Connaught Rangers, who were later relieved by the 1st Leinsters. Cavdalar itself was not excessively hot or unhealthy, but the work to be done was mostly at Ferry Hill, right down on the Struma bank, which was a death-trap. The detachment living there was kept as small as possible, and constantly relieved, but few men were fit for work after three days in that infernal heat. Their work was building in the two 60-pounders under Ferry Hill. The day they took over from a detachment of the Northumbrian Field Company a purely accidental shell had struck the rear girder of one roof which had just been hoisted into position, killing or wounding all the sappers and gunners inside, and smashing three of the girders. A large infantry working party was provided daily, but it took a long time to complete the two emplacements. The "switch" required was over 90°, which meant that a big swing was needed for the trail, and a 60-pounder is not an easy thing to cover up however small the switch. The gunners themselves worked like Trojans, but there were so few of them that they had little effect. When the emplacements were completed they were immensely strong. The roofs were comfortably proof against 6", and the embrasures were covered by splinter-proof shutters so



arranged that only 2' 6" slits had to be opened for the muzzle.

Other minor work was going on behind. Development of small water supplies, improvements to billets, and erection of mosquito-proof hutting. No one worked, or was allowed out of camp, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., and shelters of rough poles thatched with branches were erected for the use of each platoon during the day time. The section spent the week waiting for Saturday. On Saturday two trestle-wagons came down the steep winding road from Headquarters, picked up the entire section, and carried them up to Headquarters, where they stayed till Sunday night. It was going from Hell into Paradise. Down below the red clay absorbed the scorching mid-day heat and threw it out again in the evening when the air was beginning to cool. The only breeze was a hot wind which blew fiercely from the north-west in the early morning. Even the nights were so hot that one could not count on sleep. Up at Paprat at mid-day there was always a breeze, and the nights were almost cold. A mosquito was a very occasional sight. Mondays that month were indeed black Mondays.

But more than local movements were in the air. The 60th Division had already sailed for Egypt, and the 10th were to follow. In the middle of July the Company marched to Lahana, where they camped for a few days, and then were taken by lorry down to Salonica, where they camped with the remainder of the Division at Uchantar. Macdonald left from Paprat for the Flying Corps, and Pank for the 66th Company, a loss which they could ill afford, leaving them one officer short. At Uchantar various men long missing in hospital rejoined, and the Company was brought up to strength. A

fortnight was spent re-fitting, drawing wagons to replace pack, and cleaning up generally. First the sappers went off, leaving Gill and D. with the transport, and they had the benefit of a very fine Vardar wind which blew for forty-eight hours without stopping, and levelled three-quarters of the tents in the area. Then Gill went off with the horses, and D. was left for another week with the wagons and a small loading party of sappers. At last their orders came, and the Base Staff sent up transport on a scale of two mules per wagon, including loaded pontoon wagons. However, they got down to the quay, and then found that the pontoon-wagons would not go through the hatchways. The N.T.O. kindly offered to "try it endways," but this was declined, and all the bridging equipment of the Division was left to await the arrival of a more suitable boat.

The journey on H.M.T. *Maryland* was very pleasant : smooth sea, fine weather, and no submarines ; and they sighted Alexandria on September 29th.

## CHAPTER VII

### PALESTINE

ALEXANDRIA is not a town which evokes much enthusiasm from guide-books, but in many points it is superior to places of greater archæological interest, such as Cairo. Not the least of its attractions is the harbour. Rounding the point of the breakwater, one comes up the long stretch of blue water ; on the left the big block of the Ras-el-Tin Palace ; on the right, docks, coaling wharves, and warships lying at anchor ; sailing boats slip in and out between the steamers. One's first introduction to Alexandria is not soon forgotten.

The Division were concentrating at Moascar, just outside Ismailia, and as each boat-load arrived it was pushed onto the train, and sent through without any chance of seeing Alexandria. The Delta in September is a pleasant land. The Nile is high and all canals full. The fields, often half awash, are green with barley and maize as far as Zagazig, where they give way to desert. Not half-hearted scrubby plains, but real, proper, waterless sand-dunes, without a trace of green. Then comes Tel-el-Kebir, and then the trees of Ismailia.

Even at Moascar, the Company was never all together, for by the time the wagons arrived, a detachment of N.C.O.'s had gone up with the Major to Rafa to acquire some knowledge of camel transport. All divisions in Palestine were on camel establishment, and to make it work successfully requires some knowledge of the camel himself as well as the best way to load him. For instance, it has to be remembered that the driver must be made to hold the camel's head while the sappers pile

on his load ; and this lesson is not forgotten once one has seen a camel turn his neck quietly round in his driver's absence, seize the nearest man by the thigh, and throw him over his head, inflicting a wound that takes months to heal. Also that, when a camel's inside suddenly appears to be coming out of his mouth, it does not mean that he is unwell, but that he is relieving his thirst in a manner peculiar to his tribe. The advanced party were also learning other lessons of desert warfare. How to remove snakes and scorpions from the blankets before going to bed ; how to find one's way at night across ten miles of trackless desert ; and how to live, wash and shave on two quarts of water a day.

The Company joined them at Rafa towards the end of September. They marched from Moascar to Kantara in two stages, marching by night and halting in the day time ; the first night to El Ferdan, where there was an attempt at a Rest Camp. The only good point at Ferdan was the Canal, in which everyone bathed next morning. Next day they were in Kantara, sitting on the desert, hoping for a train. The officers dined at No. 2 Infantry Base Depot Mess, and conducted their dinner on the sound war principle, " Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die." To this day one of them looks self-conscious at the mention of a sweet and syrupy liqueur called *Crème de Cacao*. Kantara was an unpleasant place, especially for a unit in bivouac. Marching in from Ferdan they had crossed the big boat bridge and tramped on in the dawn through mile after mile of tents and marquees. There were three houses only, one of which was a mosque, to the east of the Canal, and in that area were probably seventy thousand troops. As is always the case on the desert the temperature was

extreme ; very hot in the day time, and decidedly cold at night. And Kantara was too busy a place to cater for the amusement of her rapidly shifting population. However their stay there was brief, and two days later the Major was guiding them into camp at Rafa, a mile and a half from the station.

At Rafa intensive training was the order of the day. An Australian officer of the Camel Corps with twenty camels came up daily to give lessons in loading. Parties from the battalions were instructed in clearing a path through wire entanglements with axes and wire-cutters, or in following through a gap blown by the sappers with Bangalore tubes. The morning was occupied with drill, musketry, camel-loading, or similar exercises, and in the afternoon the whole Company route marched down to the sea, about four miles away, and bathed. It was magnificent bathing ; a long sandy beach, shelving rapidly down to the big breakers which never seem to cease on that part of the coast. The horses used to come down too, and were ridden or dragged into the water. The 66th were following the same programme, and the two companies met daily on the beach. At first the shortage of fresh water was severely felt, as men and animals alike were strictly rationed. The men were allowed two full water-bottles a day for all purposes, which is very little in a hot country, and the horses were watered morning and evening only. It was excellent training, and any hardship was forgotten in the prospect of the attempt, expected from day to day, to break the Turkish line.

From Rafa parties of officers were frequently sent on reconnaissance to that portion of the line over which they would later be fighting. D. and Evans went up on one

such occasion with two officers from the 66th and others from the Division. They went by train to Shellal, and picked up their horses there. At Shellal they had their first sight of the Wadi Ghuzzee, the great wadi that runs across east and west from near the Gulf of Akaba to the sea beyond Gaza. It is an impressive sight ; quarter of a mile across, with high, steep sides of sandstone cut by the water into every imaginable twist and turn. In summer there is no running water at the bottom along most of its length, but in winter, after rain, it rises rapidly to fifteen or twenty feet. A dam had been put across at Shellal, and a pumping-plant beside it was ready to pump water forward when the advance began. It was loathsome water to drink ; very salt and brackish, and, when strongly chlorinated, making tea or cocoa almost undrinkable. Still it sustained life, which was all that was required. The party rode across and up the far bank, and came out on the edge of a plain stretching northwards as far as they could see. The horizon was a semi-circle of quivering mirage, while behind them rose the steep broken bank of the wadi. Taking a bearing by compass, they rode out across the plain. For the first mile there was not a rise or depression of a foot. The earth was dry and almost bare, and clouds of dust rose behind them. After twenty minutes they passed a low mound about fifteen feet high marked conspicuously on the map as the Goz-el-Gilib, and beyond it again came their objective, the Goz-el-Basl, another low hill. Here and there lay the bodies of dead horses, left behind after fights between patrols. Beside the Goz-el-Basl was Karm, two or three houses grouped round a well, and in front the ground rose slightly to a ridge from which a gentle slope led down to the Wadi Hanafish. Standing

on the ridge they could look down on the Wadi Hanafish, and beyond it the bigger Wadi Imleh, of which the Hanafish is a tributary. Beyond the Wadi Imleh the ground rose steeply to the Turkish positions, parts of which were clearly visible. Their defences were most elaborate, and of great strength; beautifully constructed trenches and several belts of barbed wire. Behind the trenches, and rather to the right, rose the arches of the Samara Bridge, carrying the narrow gauge line that ran to Beersheba. The Judæan mountains formed a background to the whole view.

This being as far as they could go without having the ground cleared, they rode along the ridge and tried to fix in their minds any landmarks. But there were almost no conspicuous natural features in the undulating, naked ground, and even a bush was rare and noticeable. Further, any object more than half-a-mile away was caught in the mirage, and twisted or elongated into some fantastic shape. The only two points nearly always visible were Tel-el-Far and Tel-el-Jemi, two big pyramidal mounds a hundred feet high on the bank of the Wadi Ghuzzee. In such country, as they found later, the only way to get anywhere was to stick blindly to one's compass, and refuse to listen to the doubts and hesitation which crept constantly into one's mind. For an ordinary civilised man to rely on what he thinks is instinct is to court disaster.

On the night of October 28th the Company marched out of Rafa with the Brigade, and headed north-east towards Shellal. It was the first of many night marches across the desert. To shorten the length of the column the camels marched on the flank; big swaying shapes, absolutely silent. There was no road, and somewhere in

front a small party was guiding the column by compass. They camped next day in the desert, and marched on after dark. In due course the broken banks of the Wadi rose in front of them, and they crossed to a small cup on the north bank, where they bivouacked. The following two days were spent in final preparations for the advance, and trying to drink the Wadi Ghuzzee water. Next night the bombardment opposite Gaza began, a bombardment designed to hold the Turks near the sea and prevent them rushing round reinforcements to their left flank. It went on all night, clearly audible from Shellal ; sometimes dying down, but never ceasing ; sometimes rising to a steady drumming roar in which the separate reports could not be distinguished. In front of Shellal all was peaceful and silent as the grave.

They marched out at dusk on the evening of the 31st, two of the Company officers leading the Brigade past the Goz-el-Gilib to the Goz-el-Basl. The whole broad plain was covered with moving troops and transport. Beer-sheba had fallen on that day, and three infantry divisions were pushing up to complete the turning of the Turkish left flank, and roll up their line. Miles of bivouacs had sprung up round Karm, and six miles of railway had been rushed up in three days from the Wadi Ghuzzee. The pipe-line had come with it and was pumping 80,000 gallons a day into Karm, while still more water was being brought up by rail from El Arish, whither it had been pumped from Egypt. Parks of mechanical transport, tractors, repair shops, R.E. dumps, were pushing up to support the advance. Round Karm, by day and night, blinding dust hid everything more than a few yards away.

The next week was not divided into days and nights



for those who took part in it. Throughout, sleep was just as likely to be had by day as it was by night. Looking back, it appears simply as a period of intense effort and great discomfort, in which various salient features still stand out. A time spent in the dust under the Goz-el-Basl, the hot desert wind—the khamsin—blowing swirls of dust into every crevice and corner. A night spent labouring at pumps on a big well in front of Karm ; not an unpleasant night, for it was cool, but of great anxiety and weariness. A seemingly eternal ride in an advance party of the Brigade, choked and blinded by the dust thrown up by the horses in front. An hour's perfect bliss when two bottles of champagne were solemnly opened and drunk ; they were being carried for someone's coming-of-age, but it was decided not to wait longer. After a week on brackish water, and small quantities of that, the pleasure of that drink was indescribable. Then a period of wandering up and down the Wadi Hanafish, digging, pumping, blasting for water, under accurate but intermittent shell fire. A long night march ; the attack, instantly and completely successful, on the Rushdi system, followed by another march which lasted all night. And then one evening the arrival at Hareira, where, in the wadi-bed, was water, running water, sweet water. Water enough to drink and wash and bathe in. And for a few days, peace.

During that week the Turkish line, the result of many months of careful, deliberate work on the part of the Turks and their German masters, had been smashed. Most elaborately built, it could repel any frontal attack, but its very perfection was its undoing. Every redoubt and system was attacked from its own left flank more or less in enfilade, and the Turkish trenches were so deep

and so solidly constructed that it was impossible to make them fire to a flank at short notice. When it became clear that their left flank was gone, the Turks withdrew from Gaza and retreated up the coastal plain, harassed by our cavalry. When they had time they destroyed bridges and water-supplies, and as the British line of communication lengthened it was found impossible to keep more than a very limited number of troops at the end of it. Consequently the 10th and 74th Divisions were withdrawn from the point where the highwater mark of the attack had left them, and taken back behind the old line pending further developments.

The 10th Division was sent to Karm, which was unfortunate. They had been there before, and they knew. For a week they lay in bivvies in the dust, and envied the luckier divisions who had pushed on. Then they marched to Sheik Nuran, a small patch of green on the Wadi Ghuzzee not far from Belah. There was a good canteen at Belah, and not much to do except keep the wells in the wadi in working order, so they got a short rest. One or two of the officers went up on short expeditions north to look at water-supplies, and Gill disappeared altogether into the Palestine mountains to make some acquaintance with the country to which the Company would sooner or later follow him.

On the 27th of November they marched out, No. 2 Section waiting to dismantle water-supplies, and following twelve hours later. It was an evil march for the R.E. Each evening when the Brigade got into bivouac after marching twelve or fifteen miles, the sappers had to turn out to put down water supplies, and were often out most of the night. The autumn rain was, luckily for our advance, late in coming, and it was still very

hot during the day. The first day took them to Beit Hanun ; the second to Beit Duras ; and the third to Junction Station. The country through which they passed varied little ; undulating corn land dotted with small villages set in patches of green. The last march was the most severe. They marched out at dawn from Beit Duras, where they had arrived after dark the night before. They were off the road, and in a loop of the narrow gauge railway, so Marr and another officer had gone out late and reconnoitred a point at which the Brigade could cross the railway. At 4 a.m. a section came out and put down a level crossing, and as it grew light the Brigade arrived, crossed with all its transport, and went ahead over a low hill between two clusters of tents which were believed to be signal camps. While they were crossing a Staff Lieutenant appeared, and stood there watching. The Section Officer, rather annoyed, asked him if he wanted anything, and was told that the C.G.S. wanted to know what was happening. Not feeling very sure who or what the C.G.S. was, he enquired further and found that the Brigade was marching through the middle of Advanced G.H.Q., in fact between the tent and office of the C-in-C.! To their great credit they made no difficulty, and had only sent down because they were afraid of a train being held up at the crossing. The day's march was very long and very dusty, and on arrival at Junction Station there were endless troughs to put down for the artillery to water at. Fortunately next day they were allowed to sit still.

One more short march on the following day took them to Latron, in the Judæan hills. Latron lies in a hollow, and here the road from Junction Station runs into the

main Jaffa-Jerusalem road. To the north the valley of Ajalon, the modern Yalo, runs up to Beit Sira and Beit-ur-el-Tahta (Beth Horon the Lower). The road from Junction Station climbs steeply, and dips again to Latron, and at close intervals along the sides lay dead horses and mules, left behind either by the Turks or our cavalry. They had been lying in the sun for a fortnight. The Company turned off to the right from Latron and camped at Bejaziz, a patch of green of extraordinary beauty surrounding a small deserted monastery. The garden was irrigated from a big well, worked by a "Sakia," a chain of buckets pulled round by a donkey, and in it were growing orange and lemon trees, the latter covered with fruit. The country round formed a sharp contrast; bare, rocky hill-sides, with occasional small patches of plough in the valleys.

At this time, early in December, the British were in the irritating position of having to sit still and watch the enemy evacuate Jerusalem. Our line ran along the mountains which rose steeply behind Latron, and formed roughly a right-angle west and south of Jerusalem. From many points we actually overlooked the town, but we could not get forward. The advance had outmarched all the artillery except the field-guns, and in such country these were almost useless on account of their flat trajectory. The Turk had only to stay behind the crests of the hills and we could not touch him, while he had still enough men to beat off attacks by unsupported infantry. Further, our transport difficulties were enormous. The Jaffa-Jerusalem road is the only one which passes through those hills, and the few other roads in the area were mere cart-tracks, difficult to follow even by daylight. Also the water supply was very bad. Each

village lived on water which it stored in cisterns during winter and consumed during summer. The villagers had been evacuated by the Turks, and these cisterns were hard to find without guidance. They were big vaults cut out of the solid rock, averaging about eight feet square, and narrowing to a bottle-neck closed by a stone which resembled any other rock lying about. Springs were few and of small yield, and their value was discounted by their inaccessibility. A spring is of little use unless a pack-mule can reach it. Latron was well watered, but north and west of it there was almost nothing.

After a few days' rest the Division moved north up the valley of Ajalon to Beit Nuba, passing on the way the village of Amwas, and the Castle of the Penitent Thief, from which presumably Latron derives its name. Beit Nuba lies at the foot of a steep and narrow wadi running up into the mountains, and up this wadi the 29th Brigade moved three days later into the line. The path was impassable to wagons, and only mule and camel transport were used. The camels were wonderful. Born and bred in the desert, they were taken up into the mountains over break-neck tracks, slipping on greasy clay, and carrying their full load. A certain number "split" themselves and had to be shot, and many more died of exposure, but the mortality was surprisingly low, and they certainly saved the situation. A good baggage-camel will carry a load of four hundred pounds with ease, not including his saddle and forage, while a mule, under the same circumstances, can only carry a hundred and eighty. Pack-mules at that time were scarce, and were mainly reserved for paths so precipitous that a camel could not face them. Without

their camels this Brigade at least could not have supplied themselves up to the line.

Just before the move the rain began, and for the next ten days it hardly ceased. It was a miserable time. Rations were down to three-quarters, and even half, quite unavoidably ; calls for work were incessant, and no one was really dry throughout the whole period. The Company was occupied in putting in and taking out water supplies at the two small springs in the sector, and the last half-mile to each of these was so steep that all stores had to be man-handled. Both approaches were in view, so that the job had to be done at night, and hauling wet tarpaulins up and down slippery clay slopes so steep that one had to use hands and feet, at night, and in pouring rain, was an amusement that palled on the first night, and by the fourth was almost unbearable. And it must be remembered that on such occasions each man is carrying in addition a rifle and fifty rounds at least of ammunition. Little news of what was going on elsewhere could be obtained. Colonel Craske, the Acting-Brigadier during General Vandeleur's absence, was wounded on the second day while out in front of his line on reconnaissance with Capt. Barnwell, but the line was, on the whole, fairly peaceful. Sergt. Ould, who went across behind the line to Enab to inspect the road, disappeared, and was reported missing ; and there were a certain number of casualties from wet and exposure. On the 6th a cheering message came through from Division, telling off the picquets for the various gates of Jerusalem when it should fall. On the 8th the final attack began. After the taking of the first objective the two divisions to the flanks converged, and the 10th dropped back. On the 10th of December they

heard that Jerusalem had been surrendered on the previous day.

The Brigade was immediately withdrawn to Beit Nuba, and then pushed further up the valley into a wadi below the village of Suffa. Following up the wadi for half-a-mile, one came to Beit-ur-el-Tahta, set on a low mound between the two arms of a fork in the wadi bed. Our line ran on the other side of the mound in a salient, and then back to Suffa. The whole area was overlooked from Beit-ur-el-Foka (Beth-Horon the Upper), which was held by the Turks. It had been the scene of fierce fighting during the past three weeks, and had been taken several times by the British ; but it was untenable, being dominated by machine-guns on the Zeitoun Ridge above it, and we had been forced on each occasion to withdraw. Since the days of Gideon the two Beth-Horons have been again and again the scene of fighting, for through them lies the path to the Nebi Samwil Ridge, and the Nebi Samwil Ridge is the key to Jerusalem. In this campaign it was taken after a great struggle by the 75th Division, who assumed thereafter a key as their Divisional badge.

The Company was at Suffa on Christmas Day. Rain began on Christmas Eve and went on with hardly a moment's break for forty-eight hours. The camp was pitched on the side of the wadi, and the rain water came pouring through, making a river in every bivvy. Everything and everyone in camp were soaked. Every feast day provoked the same exhibition. Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Whitsunday were the wettest three days of the winter. No dinner could be arranged. Wagons were sent to the nearest canteen at Deir Sineid, over thirty miles of boggy cotton soil, but of the little

they could bring back the greater part was spoilt by rain and mud before it could be eaten. It was the worst Christmas the Company had spent.

At Suffa we heard again of Sergt. Ould, who was found by the 60th Division wounded and in hospital at Jerusalem. He had lost his way, crossed a small bridge, and found himself under fire at close range from all sides, a bullet in the jaw putting him out of action. The Turks stripped him and took him back to Jerusalem. Before the enemy evacuated the city, a kind lady came round to visit the few prisoners, whose hopes had been raised by the sound of the nearing guns, and told them that it was quite true that the Turks would leave shortly, but that before they went they would certainly cut the throats of all prisoners too badly wounded to take away. However, either they had not time, or, more probably, thought better of it, and the prisoners were duly found when we entered the hospitals.

The next big event after the fall of Jerusalem was the Turks' counter-attack on December 27th. They attacked with great gallantry, and succeeded in penetrating portions of our line covering the city. On the same day that part of the British line which lay north-west of Jerusalem was pushed forward to threaten his flank as he advanced. The Brigade deployed in front of Suffa in the Wadi Sunt, and attacked up the Wadi Sad and the spur overlooking it, while the 30th Brigade advanced on the right up the Wadi Ain Arik and the Zeitoun Ridge. The Turks, though few in number, were well supported by their guns and fought hard. In the sangars taken by the 1st Leinsters, one man, when all the rest had been killed or taken prisoner, got into a cave in the rock and held out until Capt. Murray crawled behind him



and dropped a bomb from the rear into the mouth of his hiding-place. The Irish Rifles, on the left, met with little opposition, though they had one officer killed and one wounded in the patrol which went up the bed of the wadi. On the right, the 30th Brigade suffered considerably. The attack was everywhere successful, but it was inevitably held up after a few miles by lack of transport. Limbers could not get beyond the Wadi Sunt ; and the road down into it, made in three nights by the sappers and pioneers, was very steep and difficult. The Company pushed up close behind the infantry, and three sections began at once to make a wagon road up the bed of the Wadi Sad. The going was fairly good over gravel and boulders, and they found they could make nearly a mile a day. No. 2 Section went across to the Wadi Ain Arik to make a track for a mountain battery to pass to support the 30th Brigade. They saw Craig in the wadi-bed. His section had been given the rear-most task of the Company, but his usual genius for drawing fire still held good, and that particular section of the wadi seemed to catch every "over" for miles round. A very rough track, mostly steps, already ran up the hillside where the mountain battery had to go, and the machine gunners had dragged some of their mules up it. One of the mules had been killed on the path, and blocked it completely. For half-an-hour it was an unpleasantly warm corner, and then it quieted down. A couple of hours' work eased off the worst parts of the scramble, the battery passed up successfully, and No. 2 went across and rejoined the Company in the Wadi Sad.

As the result of the advance it was possible to push up one 6" howitzer into Beit-ur-el-Foka, and from there it could just reach Ram Allah. The main road to

Jerusalem runs through Ram Allah, and the Turks, their attack beaten off, were retiring down it en masse. The sudden shelling from their flank must have caused them a most unpleasant surprise.

The next fortnight was spent by the R.E. in pushing up roads, and by the infantry into getting into a more or less regular line. The Company shifted camp three times. From the Wadi Sad to the hillside under Kefnama ; to the bed of the Wadi Dilbeh below Ras Kerber ; and from there to the intersection of three wadis known as Point 713. Much rain fell, and moving camp over the bogged country was a slow business. Pack-tracks had to be made to connect up the infantry with the wagon-roads behind, and reconnaissances carried out to determine the best line by which to bring up the main lorry road which would supply the next advance. The route eventually selected ran from Beit Sira through Point 713 up to Khurbetha Ibn Harith, and down again to Job's Tomb in the wadi in front of Ras Kerker. The Company worked for a time on the section behind Point 713, looking after the work of the 1st Royal Irish, while the 5th Royal Irish (Pioneers) took the next section from Point 713 up the hill. At the top of the rise the Company took over again and worked a stretch of about a mile to Harith. On the 11th of February they moved camp to Harith, where they stayed for nearly a month.

Building a lorry road under such circumstances was no light task. It was twenty-one feet wide, and had an average thickness of metal of fourteen inches. No steam-rollers or stone-crushers could be had, and they had to make the best of hand-rammers and stone-breaking hammers. The nearest good binding sand was at Point 713, a mile away, and limbers could not use the

road to fetch it, as the consequent damage to uncompleted portions would have been too great. Labour was the only item with which they were well provided. On the Company's stretch of the road they had three battalions of the 29th Brigade, one of the 30th, and two of the 74th Division, lent for the purpose. The first quarter-of-a-mile of the section ran over a shaking bog, which had to be drained before road work proper could start. Then it rose slowly through terraced olive groves to Harith, and on across open country to the top of the rise. The Company was camped outside Harith, on the hillside overlooking the sea. Hours were long, but it was regular and steady work, which was a pleasant change, and the weather was fairly good. Several of the battalions took a keen interest in their work, and Munsters, Buffs, and Irish Rifles used to stroll round each others' portions in the evening, making disparaging remarks. At mid-day and in the evening the wadis rang with the reports of blasts laid and fuzed during the previous hours. The road was called the Great North Road, and as it neared completion the number of Staff Officers who visited it increased. According to programme a lorry convoy was to run to Harith on the 1st of March, so, as one passing General told us, we must have the road ready by the 30th of February. As soon as a dump had been formed at Harith the infantry would attack the Turks, who had taken up a very strong line covering the Wadi el Jib.

The road was finished in time—just in time. The first lorry convoy ran on March 1st. On the same day, Major Noble, who had commanded the Company for two years, went away to be A.D.W., Jaffa. On the 4th the Brigade moved forward into Beit Ello, the preparatory position for the assault.





PALESTINE. ROAD-MAKING NEAR BEIT ELLO.



PALESTINE. WATER-TANK NEAR KEFR AIN.

## CHAPTER VIII

### PALESTINE

THE evening of March 4th found the Company camped on the reverse slope of the Beit Ello spur, looking back across the wadi at their old camp at Harith. Up the bed of the wadi a battery of 60-pounders were being dragged by caterpillars to their battle positions. From the wadi up to Beit Ello the slope, though steep, was fairly even, but in front the dip down to the Wadi Ez Zerka was so nearly sheer as to be impassable even to pack-mules. On the far side of the Ez Zerka the ground rose again steeply to another long ridge, on the summit of which stood Deir en Niddam. Deir en Niddam was held as an outpost by the Turks, but their main line, which was a strong one, lay another mile and a half back. In the coming attack the infantry on the first day had to advance from a position in front of Niddam, and carry a strongly fortified hill, known as the Sudan ridge from the village of Deir es Sudan, which stood at one end of it. Once this ridge was taken they were face to face with the Turk's main position, and separated from it only by the Wadi el Jib. On the second day they were to cross the wadi and break through the line opposite.

The first step was therefore to occupy Deir en Niddam, and as a preliminary to that, to make a track down from Beit Ello into the Wadi Ez Zerka, and up again on the other side. Unless there was a track for the supply mules the village could not be held ; on the other hand,

unless the village was held the track could not be made, as it was in full view. The difficulty was solved by entering the village early in the morning and holding it till dusk on two successive days, while big working parties hacked out a track down and up the hills. On the 5th a Company of Irish Rifles raided the village at dawn. A platoon entered it from each side, and captured, with only two casualties, the half-dozen Turks who formed the garrison, together with an F.O.O., his orderlies, and telephone. While the parties behind got to work, Gill and another officer went up into the village, trying to pick out the best route for the track to follow up the rocky and terraced hillside. In Niddam itself a F.O.O. was trying to get his battery, back behind Beit Ello, on to the few Turks who could be seen far away on the right. From holes and buildings on the hill-side opposite snipers kept up a steady fire whenever a head showed over the skyline. The choice of a track was not difficult ; the hill-side was all much the same, and, as there was no question of taking wagons up, steepness did not matter.

The Rifles withdrew in the afternoon, but the Turks did not return, and on the following morning the Leinsters re-occupied the village, this time to stay. By that evening the track was across the Wadi, and half-way up the hill. At mid-day next day it was finished. On the same day the 6th Leinsters took over from the 1st, and in doing so lost Captain Brabazon, the bravest of the brave. On the Struma it had been his custom to take out two or three of what he called his " Company Funks " for a walk at night in front of the enemy trenches. If the Bulgars declined to attend to him, he fired at them until they did. Now at last his luck

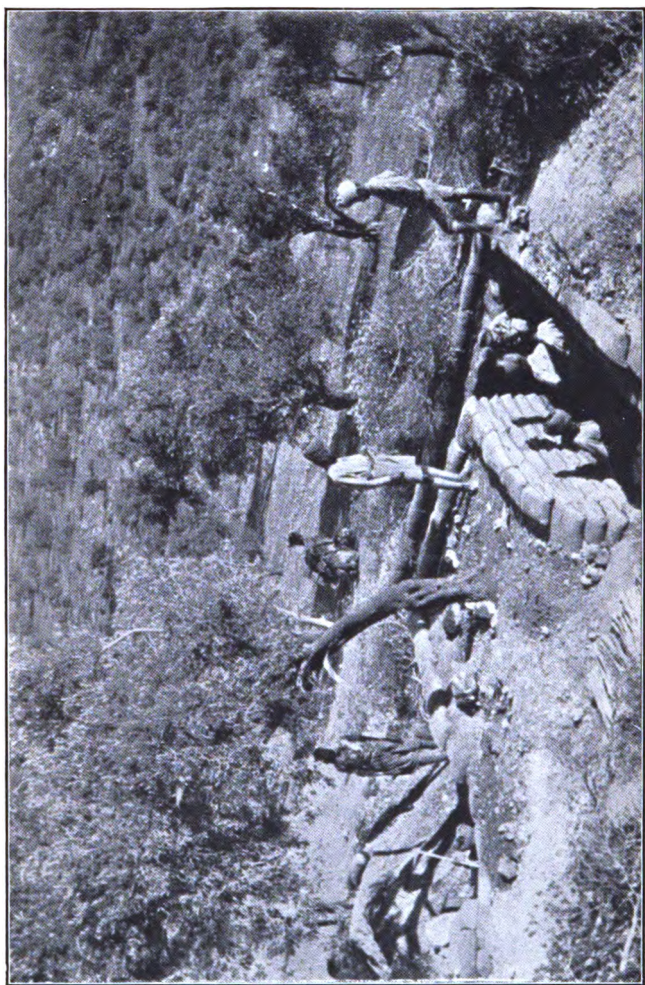
failed him, and he was shot through the body by a sniper, who a minute before had shot his stick out of his hand.

The following day was spent in preparing for the attack, while the brigades on the right were moving up into position. On the morning of the 9th the Connaught Rangers occupied Neby Saleh, the village from which Brabazon had been killed, and pushed on in front of it, while the 1st Leinsters moved across to the right front to attack Sudan Ridge. The Company struck camp early in the morning, and marched across the Ez Zerka behind the Irish Rifles. Half-way up the hill to Niddam the column turned off to the right, and followed a broad terrace round the flank of the hill. Although it was out of sight the Turks had registered it with considerable accuracy, and salvos of their high explosive shrapnel began to burst just over. The column of fours was extended to platoons at two hundred yards interval, and they pushed ahead. Two of the Company officers had an interesting day. Gill had gone on ahead with Major Graham and some others, and finally came out on a bare knoll in full view of the enemy. The party spent the next half-hour trying to hide themselves under rocks, and listening to the splinters coming down. D. went out with Corpl. Borton to inspect the crossing of the Wadi el Jib, which was to be covered by the Leinsters by mid-day. On their return in the afternoon they found the Leinsters deploying for the attack, which had been postponed, and themselves given up for dead or prisoners. The Turk, anxious for his right flank, had luckily during the morning abandoned the Sudan Ridge, which he was holding in force, and retired across the El Jib to his main positions on the far side,



Meanwhile the 30th and 31st Brigades had moved forward on the right until the line of the Division ran from end to end along the south bank of the Wadi. The 29th and 30th Brigades met at the village of Umm Suffa. On the 10th the Division attacked, and was everywhere met by a fierce and well-organised resistance. The twists and turns of the great wadi gave the Turks every opportunity of using enfilade fire, and its steep and rocky sides were in many places unscaleable. All the battalions in the attack suffered heavily. The Irish Rifles, the attacking battalion of the 29th Brigade, managed to climb within two hundred yards of the Turks' sangars. There they were held, having already lost seven officers, including Major Graham, and took what cover they could for the night, with a view to being reinforced for another attack at dawn. The Turk, however, had had enough, and slipped away under cover of the darkness ; in the morning the line of the Division was advanced over the crest without opposition.

For the next four months the Brigade remained in the same sector with little alteration. An advance was made on the left early in April. Kefr Ain Hill was taken by the 6th Leinsters, and included thenceforward in our line. The Company camped for some time at Umm Suffa, beside Brigade Headquarters, and moved over in April to a hollow behind Neby Saleh. From this camp three sections were kept out on detachment. One at Deir Gussaneh, working on strong points behind the line ; one on Kefr Ain Hill, working in the line ; and one at Deir Sudan, also on line work ; leaving one section at Company Headquarters. Remaining stationary for so long a time had many good points. It gave the main roads time to push up unusually close, and lorries could



PARTY OF 101ST MAHRATTAS WORKING ON STRONG POINT NEAR KEFR AIN.

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come right up to Brigade Headquarters. Consequently a large amount of material could be brought up, timber, girders, and cement, and the R.E. had a chance of doing something more interesting than cutting roads through rock. Our line ran at most points on the forward slopes of the hills, and on the reverse slopes "Strong Points" were constructed, one or two to each battalion front. These "Strong Points" were small enclosed works, very strongly built, and with plenty of cover, designed for a garrison of a platoon or half company. In case the line was broken at any point these garrisons would be able to hold out until a counter-attack could be launched. The most essential element of their success was surprise, and in order to effect this they had to be hidden with the greatest care. All work was done at night, and was camouflaged so that it could not be seen in daylight. Two of these "Strong Points," with a couple of O.P.'s for the gunners, and various other odd jobs, kept a section very comfortably busy. At the same time it was interesting work; hours were not unduly long, and casualties were few. There was a certain amount of sickness. Evans and D. both disappeared for a time to hospital, while Gill became so run down and ill that he was compelled, after many admissions to hospital, to accept a more restful job as O.C. 589th Advanced Park Company at Ludd. Marr took over from him in June, and in August, when Gill's exchange had been effected, Major C. E. F. Wyncoll in turn took over the Company for a short time.

During the early summer the E.E.F. was reorganised so that more British troops could be sent to France. Of the four battalions of the Brigade only one, the 1st Leinsters, was retained. The 5th Connaught Rangers

and 6th Leinsters went to France, and the 6th Irish Rifles were disbanded, their personnel being split up among other units of the Division. It was the end of a fine battalion, with a well-earned reputation for fighting and working. Three Indian battalions came to replace them, and brought the Brigade up to a strength it had never known before except on paper. At the same time several companies of Sappers and Miners came out from India to replace British Field Companies sent away. It was considered desirable to keep one British company in each division to do any work of a specially technical nature, such as engine driving, and in the re-allotment the 65th were transferred from the 10th Division to the 3rd (Lahore). It was sad to change after four years' service, but as a matter of fact the 10th were so much altered that no real tie was broken. The sector which their departure left vacant was taken over by the 66th Company, and just before the attack, in front of Keir Ain Hill, where No. 2 had lived so long, Craig was killed. He was out on a night reconnaissance for a suitable line by which the main road should follow the advance, and a machine-gun opened on him and his small party. He was killed instantly. He had been for several months with the 65th in Serbia and afterwards, and the news of his death was a sorrow to many friends.

The Company joined their new division in time to prepare for the final battle in September. They were then a good deal below strength, both in officers and men, and were hard put to it to answer the heavy calls made on them for water supply work. The camp under the trees of Mulebbis was a striking change from Neby Saleh. Instead of wild and precipitous hills, intersected with deep dry wadis on whose terraced sides grew nothing

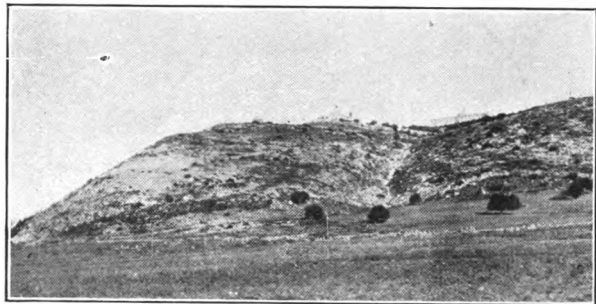
but olives and low scrub, Mulebbis lay in the middle of the broad, undulating, coastal plain, dotted with orange groves wherever water could be had, and was itself watered by one of the biggest streams in Palestine, the Wadi Auja, which rises at Ras-el-Ain, below the ruins of a Crusader castle. Mulebbis was only two miles from the line, which ran through Ras-el-Ain, so that a good deal of discretion had to be used in moving about in daylight. As the 17th of September approached, the Commander-in-Chief pushed over more and more troops into the left sector, where his great thrust was to be made. Division after division marched in by night, and disappeared into the orange groves and orchards till they were packed with men. Orders grew more and more strict. All movement by daylight and all cooking-fires were stopped. Water had to be drawn at night, and compressed smokeless fuel was issued. On the right and centre the line was becoming weaker and weaker. Battalions were taking over fronts from brigades and brigades from divisions. Tents and bivouacs were left standing, and small parties of men were kept moving about them all day to give the impression of greater numbers. It was a game of bluff, and the Turks lost. The intelligence reports we captured showed that they had had no inkling of this move. They believed, it is true, that an attack was imminent, but they expected it to come on the right flank, towards the Jordan. And the cost of the failure of their intelligence was one of the most crushing defeats that even Palestine has ever seen.

The Company's part in that brief and decisive battle was dull and arduous. They had four days' hard marching behind the infantry, largely in circles, putting

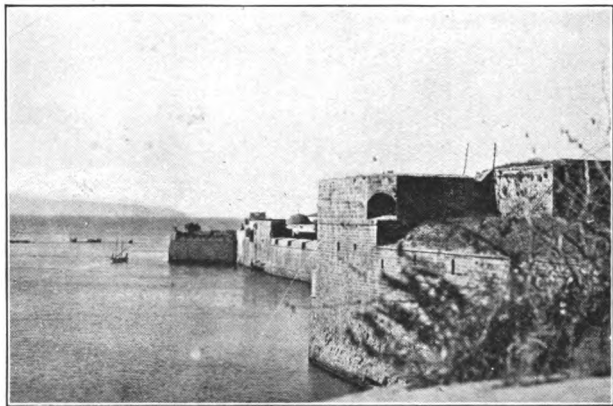
up new water supplies and restoring old ones which the Turks had hastily put out of action. At the end of that time all fighting south of the former enemy G.H.Q. was over, and the 3rd Division went back to Jiljulia, a small ruined village five miles north-east of Ras-el-Ain. It was a singularly unpleasant camp site, in the middle of an old Turkish trench system, dirty as it could be, and full of flies. The October sun was very hot, and fever and dysentery both became common. There was not much work; a few engines to keep running and troughs to repair. News came that Aleppo had been taken, and a Brigade sweepstake was organised for the day when Turkey would ask for an armistice.

At the end of October the Company started to march to Damascus, but got no further than Jenin when they were counter-ordered to Ludd. Here they camped by the side of the railway a mile south of the Station, and settled down to make themselves comfortable. The football team was reassembled to play against neighbouring units, and a daily convoy of wagons brought beer from the canteen. Christmas was duly celebrated, the best Christmas they had ever had. One or two men were called away for demobilization as "pivotal."

At the end of January another sudden move was ordered, this time to Haifa. G.H.Q. had decided to move to Haifa for the spring, and one A.T. Company and one Field Company were rushed up to Mount Carmel to build hutting. They arrived in pouring rain and struggled up to the Carmelite monastery on the face of the mountain. This was an admirable billet for the winter, wind-proof and rain-proof. With three or four men in each of the monks' cells the Company could just find room. The big hall, formerly used as a dining hall



MONASTERY ON MOUNT CARMEL, SEEN FROM THE BEACH.



RAMPARTS OF ACRE. MOUNT CARMEL IN DISTANCE

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for pilgrims, was appropriated as a mess-room, and even the horses found shelter in the monastery stables.

The writer rejoined the Company in February after three months' absence. At this time, and during the next two months, almost every unit in the Force was restless and discontented. The war was apparently over, and yet so few men were getting home. At Kantara especially the men were on edge and difficult to manage. Coming back to the 65th was like going back into the army as it was during the war. They were working long hours in bad weather, pushing up huts as fast as they could go. Haifa was some way off, and there was little amusement to be had even there. And yet they were working as hard and as cheerfully as they ever had during the war. No doubt the isolation of the place was a help, but even so it was a remarkable achievement. Most of the officers had been with the Company for a short time only, but we had many N.C.O.'s and sappers who had been with us for four years and more, and there must have been a feeling that the good name of the Company had been upheld far too long to be let down now that the war was over.

The end was getting near. Orders came in unexpectedly to send away for demobilisation a hundred and ten men, half the Company. They went away in four drafts of about thirty each, and they included, naturally, almost every N.C.O. It was cheerful news for those who were going, but sad for anyone who had served with them for long and had to stay behind. Long hours in the office making out and signing the endless necessary lists and papers. Last walks in the long dark corridors of the monastery with men with whom one had worked and lived and fought for three years ; breaking down

for the first and last time the barrier which discipline is bound to set between officer and man. Next morning parade and inspection in the courtyard outside. Five minutes later the end of the party disappearing round the bend of the steep hill road with a last look back and a last wave. Finally, later in the morning, one watching from the roof of the monastery could see the little train, far down below, crawling out of sight round the point of Mount Carmel. Then back to the office for the papers of the next batch.

It was just at this time that we heard of Gill's death. He went home, demobilised, in February, not well, but better than when he left the Company. Immediately after he landed in England he developed influenza, and died ten days later. It seemed cruelly hard luck after coming safely through three years of continuous active service to die just when he was going back to his old life and profession.

By the middle of April only fifty men were left, and No. 2 Section, under Bentall, were recalled from Haifa, where they had been making a new road through the town and doing other necessary work. The officers were reposted; Capt. Fagan to C. E. North Force, Coombs and Le Quesne to an A.T. Company; Wickham on leave to U.K.; Bentall to be released. D. remained to take the Company down to Kantara and disband, and Bentall and Wickham went with him. They camped for two days at Kantara, and then marched into the Base Depot, having handed in all wagons and equipment. There they finally disbanded, and the 65th Field Company ceased officially to exist.

But now, in June, 1920, over a year later, it is clear that in spirit it still lives. When these papers had been

collected, altered, and put into some sort of shape, a circular was sent out to each of those four hundred former members of the Company whose addresses could be traced, asking them if they would confirm the accuracy of the name and address. The first fifty replies have been received in the last two days, and in five cases out of six the letter not only gives the information asked for, but adds good wishes for the book or the Company ; " something to remind us " ; " can I help " ; " we don't want to forget " ; some expression of good will. These chapters will well serve their purpose if they recall the four years when England and Englishmen were seeking a greater thing than profit ; when in one small unit men of every variation of rank, of education, of ability, were united in one aim ; when endeavour owned no limit but capacity ; when generosity looked on life itself as no extraordinary gift. And it is easy to believe that in this spirit which was once two hundred and fifty men, some part is taken by those whose bodies lie in lonely places on the shores of the Eastern Mediterranean, and to whose memory this book, if it ever sees the light, will be dedicated.

## APPENDIX

The following lists of names and addresses have been compiled from various sources ; from Part II. orders, from old papers, from information supplied by former members of the unit, but mainly from a copy of the Company Roster kept by successive pay-sergeants, Edwards, Harris, Wake and Viner. Only the care and accuracy with which this had been kept made the task at all possible.

All the addresses given have been verified, and approximately a hundred, from which no answers were received, have been struck out. It is realised that there must be many inaccuracies, and I shall be very glad if any corrections are sent either to me or to the publishers in case it is found possible to issue a second impression.

I should like to express here my gratitude for the assistance and many offers of assistance which I have received.

D.

- NOTE. 1. The rank given is that held on leaving the Company.  
2. C.B.D.=Combined Base Depôt, Kantara, or the Infantry Base Depôt which preceded it.  
3. Where the name and address are known of the next-of-kin of a man deceased they have been entered against his name.

### OFFICERS

BENTALL, Lieut. A. F.	Joined from 16th Coy. Sappers and Miners 13/1/19. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	92 Auckland Rd., Upper Norwood, London, S.E.
BORRADAILE, Major B.	Joined from U.K. 23/9/15. To hospital 6/12/15.	c/o Messrs. Cox & Co., 16 Charing Cross, London, S.W. (now in Egypt).
CAMPBELL, Lieut. G. A.	Joined from U.K. 22/1/16. Wounded 2/10/16.	4a Fairlie Park Drive, Partick, Glasgow.
COOMBS, Lieut. D. W.	Joined from U.K. 17/8/18. To 521st A.T. Coy. 15/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
✕CRAIG, Capt. I. M.	Joined from 85th Fld. Coy. 24/11/15. To 66th Fld. Coy. 21/9/16. Killed Aug. 1918.	

# APPENDIX

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DAVIES, Lieut. R. D.	Joined from U.K. 12/2/17. To 66th Fld. Coy. 27/4/17.	Pitch and Pay, Stoke Bishop, Bristol.
DUFF, Capt. A. C., M.C.	Joined from U.K. 25/9/15. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on dis- bandment of unit.	Strathaird, Cambridge.
EVANS, Lieut. E. M. P.	Joined from 143rd A.T. Coy. 5/8/17. Invalided to U.K. 11/2/19. (Since re- tired.)	121 Harley St., London.
FAGAN, Major C. F. F.	Joined from 85th Fld. Coy. 12/6/16. Wounded 3/10/16. Rejoined 22/4/17. To Fld. Eng. G.H.Q. 19/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	C/o H. S. King and Co., 9 Pall Mall, London.
FEARFIELD, Lieut. C. J.	Joined 15/9/15. To 11th Div. R.E. 25/9/15.	
FEARY, Lieut. S.	From England with unit. Hospital 4/9/15.	
FUNNELL, Lieut. C. G.	Joined 24/8/18. To U.K. leave 15/1/19.	Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.
✕GARRETT, Major A. ff.	From England with unit. Wounded 14/8/15. Died June 1918.	
✕GILL, Major G. E.	From England with unit. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To 389th Advanced Park Coy. 12/9/18. Died Mar. 1919.	
HODGSON, Lieut. H. L.	Joined from U.K. 23/1/18. To hospital 30/1/18.	5 Streatham Rd., Streat- ham, London, S.W. (Now in South India.)
✕JAMESON, Lieut.	From England with unit. Killed 16/8/15.	
LE QUESNE, Lieut. F. P.	Joined from 16th Coy. Sappers and Miners 13/1/19. To 570th A.T. Coy. 19/4/19 on disband- ment of unit.	14 Le Geyt St., St. Helier, Jersey.

MACDONALD, Lieut. C. B. R. (now Capt. retired)	Joined from 140th A.T. Coy. 22/3/16. To R.A.F. 20/7/17.	Whitchurch House, Whitchurch, Oxon.
MACKIE, Lieut. D. R.	Joined from U.K. 20/1/16. To 85th Fld. Coy. 12/6/16. Later R.A.F.	
MARR, Major J. H., D.S.O.	Transferred from Royal Irish Fusiliers 2/8/17. To U.K. leave 14/1/19.	Coolbawn, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland (now in India).
NOBLE, Major N. D. D.S.O. (later Lieut.-Col.)	Joined from 16th Corps 8/3/16. To A.D.W. Jaffa 28/2/18.	C.R.E. Cairo, Egypt.
O'BRIEN, Lieut. J. F. C.	Joined from U.K. 11/2/16. To 140th A.T. Coy. 22/3/16.	
OXLEY, Capt. W. H., M.C. (later Major)	Joined from 27th Div. R.E. 9/6/16. To 66th Fld. Coy. 11/8/16.	c/o Messrs. Cox & Co., 16 Charing Cross, London (now in Egypt).
PANK, Capt. R. D., M.C.	Joined from 3rd Fld. Squadn. 8/11/16. To 66th Fld. Coy. 5/8/17.	Brompton Barracks, Chatham.
PATTESON, Lieut. C. M.C., A.F.C. (later Major)	From England with unit. Wounded 16/8/15. Re- joined. Transferred to South Wales Borderers 30/6/16. Later R.A.F.	Fairlight, Limpsfield, Sur- rey. (Now in China.)
SAUNDERS, Lieut. S. M.	Joined from R.N. Div. 20/9/15. To hospital 4/12/15.	Aldourie, Mauldeth Rd., Heaton Mersey.
SCOVELL, Capt. R. H.	From England with unit. Killed 16/8/15.	Mrs. Scovell, Stone Lodge, St. John's Park, Ryde.
WALLER, Capt. J. H. de W. (later Major) D.S.O.	Joined from 66th Fld. Coy. 23/9/16. To 137th A.T. Coy. 8/4/17.	16 Albemarle St., London
WEST, Lieut. J. H.	Joined from R.N. Div. 17/1/17. To 140th A.T. Coy. 27/4/17.	38 Plasturton Gdns., Car- diff, S. Wales.

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WICKHAM, Lieut. J. T.	Joined 22/3/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	Mount Folly, Wexford, Ireland.
WILSON, Lieut. G. A.	Joined 5/9/15. To hospital 10/9/15.	
WOOD, Lieut. H. G.	Joined 24/8/18. To hospital 27/12/18.	
WYNCOLL Major C. E. F., <i>M.C.</i> (later Lieut.-Col.)	Joined from 389th Ad- vanced Park Coy. 12/9/18. To D.D.W. Alex. 1/12/18.	c/o Messrs. Cox & Co., 16 Charing Cross, London.

## MOUNTED SECTION

ALLEN, Dvr. J.	Joined from 66th Fld. Coy. 4/9/18. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	10 Huntingdon Rd., Earls- don, Coventry.
ALMOND, Dvr. W.	Joined 10/10/16. To hos- pital 5/12/16.	Pointon, Billinghoe, Lin- colnshire.
ANDERSON, L.-Corpl. S. F.	Joined 13/8/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
ASHTON, Dvr. B. A.	Joined with unit's trans- port. To hospital 10/7/16.	
ATKIN, Dvr. J. F.	Joined 10/10/16. To hos- pital 10/3/19.	12 Gower St., Wombwell, nr. Barnsley, Yorks.
ATKINS, Dvr. W.	Joined 13/8/16. To hos- pital 8/3/19.	
ATKINSON, Dvr. E.	Joined 13/8/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	47 Conway Rd., South Tottenham, London.
BAILEY, Dvr. E. H.	Joined 24/5/16. Accident- ally wounded 30/12/17.	46 Graemesdyke Avenue, East Sheen.
BAKER, Dvr. B.	Joined 10/10/16. To C.B.D. 11/11/17.	
BAKER, Dvr. W. N.	Joined from H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 25/8/17. To C.B.D. 11/11/17.	



BALFOUR, Dvt. J.	Joined 11/2/16. To hospital 25/7/16.	
BARKER, Dvt. H.	Joined from H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 25/8/17. To 8th Fld Troop 9/4/18.	
BARNES, Dvt. J. W.	Joined 24/5/16. To hospital 14/6/16.	Southwood Lodge, Southwood Rd., Cove, nr. Farnborough, Hants.
BEARD, Dvt. J. T.	Joined 24/5/16. To 66th Fld. Coy. 20/8/17.	Lythe Barn, Alton, Staffs.
BELLEW, Dvt. F.	Joined 11/2/16. To H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 14/10/17.	
BELTON, Dvt. J. R.	Joined 13/8/16. To hospital (?)	
BERTRAM, Dvt. F.	Joined with unit's transport. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	Seafeld Farm, Dunbar, East Lothian.
BETTS, Dvt. J. O.	Transferred from 1/4th Northants 3/7/18. To demobilisation 31/12/18.	Towcester Rd., Silverstone, Northants.
BIDMEAD, C.-S.-M. J.	Joined with unit's transport. To C.B.D. 3/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	30 Great Clarendon St., Oxford.
BIRD, Dvt. A. J.	Joined from 66th Fld. Coy. 22/9/16. To 137th A.T. Coy. 25/5/17.	
BRAMWORTH, Dvt. H.	Joined 10/10/16. To 389th Advanced Park Coy. 12/9/18.	96 Diana St., Crosby, Scunthorpe, Lincs.
BRIANT, 2-Corpl. T. W. G.	Joined 24/5/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	4 Windsor Rd., Sandycumbe Rd., Richmond, Surrey.
BROAD, Dvt. J.	Joined 10/10/16. To hospital (?)	
BROOKER, Dvt. J. T.	From England with unit: Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To hospital 3/2/16.	

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BROOKS, L.-Corpl. C. G	Joined 24/5/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	10 Osborne Villas, Bollo Lane, Acton, London, W.
BROWNE, Dvt. J. W.	Joined from 143rd A.T. Coy. 10/9/17. To hos- pital (?)	
BROWN, L.-Corpl. G. J.	Joined 13/8/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
BULL, Dvt. J. T.	Joined 8/10/16. To hos- pital (?)	98 Station St., Cheslyn Hay, nr. Walsall, Staffs.
BUNTING, Dvt. J. J.	Joined 4/9/17. To C.B.D. 24/9/17.	
BUTCHER, Dvt. B.	Joined 11/2/16. To H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 2/10/17.	
BYRNE, Dvt. P.	Transferred from 1st Roy. Irish 3/7/18. To hospital 13/4/19.	
CARROLL, Dvt. J.	Joined 19/8/18. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	14 Chatham St., Dublin.
CASH, Dvt. J.	Joined 23/7/16. To U.K. for work in shipyards 29/7/18.	
CHALK, Dvt. F.	Joined from 85th.Fld.Coy. 14/11/17 To Fld. Eng. G.H.Q. 19/4/19.	
CHAIFIELD, Dvt. C. G.	Joined 11/2/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	8 Mercer St., Tunbridge Wells.
CHOWINGS, Dvt. G.	Joined with unit's trans- port. To 66th Fld. Coy. 21/9/16.	Fore St., Morchard Bishop, North Devon.
CLARE, Dvt. G.	Joined 19/8/18. To hos- pital 27/9/18. (Later 220th A.T. Coy.)	5 Congreve Buildings, Station St., Burton-on- Trent

CLARE, L.-Corpl. W.	Joined with unit's transport. To hospital 31/8/16.	17 Mart Bank, Downall Green, North Ashton, Wigan.
CLAYSON, Dvt. Edwin	Joined 11/2/16. To demobilisation 11/3/19.	High St., Harrold, Beds.
COATES, S. & C. S., J.	Joined with unit's transport. To hospital 11/2/16.	Woodhouse Cottages, Eamont Bridge, Penrith, Westmoreland.
COLEMAN, Dvt. T.	Joined from H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 26/5/17. To hospital 24/12/18.	
COLES, Dvt. E.	Joined with unit's transport. To hospital 1/10/15.	
COLES, Dvt. H.	Joined 11/2/16. To 8th Fld. Troop 2/5/16	
COLLEN, Dvt. E.	Transferred from 1st King's Liverpools 19/8/18. To hospital (?)	
COLLINS, Dvt. E.	Joined 24/5/16. To H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 14/10/17.	4 Spring Grove, Marden, Kent.
COLLINS, Dvt. G	Joined 24/5/16 To H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 14/10/17.	6 Albion Rd., Marden, Kent.
COOPER, L.-Corpl. A. W.	Joined 24/5/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
COTTON, Sergt. F.	Joined with unit's transport. To demobilisation 11/3/19.	
CUMMINGS, L.-Corpl. A.	Joined with unit's transport. To 35th A.T. Coy. 29/10/17.	
DAVIS, Dvt. H.	Joined 10/6/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	14 Council Cottages, Lower Green, Esher.
DAVIS, Dvt. H	Joined from H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 25/8/17 To hospital (?)	

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DAY, Dvr. C. F.	Transferred from 1/10th London 4/7/18. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	27 Northwood Rd., Thornton Heath, Croydon.
DOBSON, Corpl. E.	Joined 11/2/16. To hospital 25/1/18.	
DODGE, L.-Corpl. G. J.	Joined with unit's transport. To hospital 3/7/16.	104 Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey.
DOUBLE, L.-Corpl. H. S.	Joined with unit's transport. To U.K. leave 12/2/19.	47 Portman Place, Globe Rd., Mile End, London.
DWYER, Dvr. J.	Transferred from 1st Royal Irish 18/8/18. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	
EDWARDS, C.-S.-M. H.	Joined with unit's transport. To A.D.W. Salonica 30/4/17.	3 James St., Moss Side, Manchester.
ELLIOTT, Sergt. T.	Joined with unit's transport. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	Torbryan Barton, nr. Appleton, Newton Abbot, Devon.
ELLIS, Dvr. J. W. B.	Joined from H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 11/7/18. To C.B.D. 27/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	Northwood Farm, Dacre, Harrogate.
FAIRWEATHER, Dvr. J.	Joined from H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 25/8/17. To C.B.D. 27/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	Ashfield, nr. Stowmarket, Suffolk.
FITZSIMMONS, Dvr. T.	Joined with unit's transport. To H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 26/5/17.	
FLEMING, Dvr.	Joined 19/9/18. To hospital 19/10/18.	
FLETCHER Dvr. A.	Joined from H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 25/8/17. To C.B.D. 24/9/17.	
FOOKES, C.-Q.-M.-S. A. W.	Joined 20/1/16. To Home Establishment 24/1/19.	15 Palmerston Rd., Chatham. (Now in India.)

FORMAN, Dvt. A.	Joined from H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 25/8/17. To H.Q. R.E. 3rd Div. 8/10/18.	
FREEMAN, Dvt. E.	Joined 27/8/17. To C.B.D. 27/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	
GARNER, L.-Corpl. F.	Joined 23/7/16. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	Avon Bank, Welford-on- Avon.
GODFREY, Dvt. C. E.	Joined 23/7/16 To hos- pital 2/2/19.	The Hatch Inn, Coleman's Hatch, Sussex.
✱GOULDSBOROUGH, L.-Corpl.	Joined with unit's trans- port. Died on service 29/12/15.	
GRAY, Dvt. A. H.	Joined 23/7/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
GROOM, Sergt. J. G., D.C.M., M.M. (later T.-S.-M.)	Joined with unit's trans- port. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To 13th Pontoon Park 22/2/18.	
HALL, Dvt. H.	Joined 23/7/16. To R.O.D. R.E. 21/2/17.	
HANCOCK, Dvt. R.	Joined 11/2/16. To hos- pital 7/5/16.	
HEADINGTON, Dvt. G.	Joined 22/11/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	5 Bentley Cottages, Her- riott St., Aldershot.
HEZELGROVE, Dvt. C.	Joined from 389th Ad- vanced Park Coy. 12/9/18. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	37 Seal St., Euston Rd., Bristol.
HOLLIHEAD, Dvt. J.	Joined with unit's trans- port. To H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 2/10/17.	East Lodge, Ince Blundell, Lancs.
HOPE, Dvt. F. J.	Joined with unit's trans- port. To hospital 30/7/16.	
HOWARD, L.-Corpl. J.	Joined with unit's trans- port. To demobilisation 31/12/18	290 Upper Parliament St. Liverpool.

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HUDSON, Dvr. J.	Joined with unit's transport. To H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 2/10/17.	
JAGUES, Sergt. W.	Joined from 519th Fld. Coy. 4/9/18. To C.B.D. 3/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	5 Constance St., North Ormsby, Middlesboro.
JENKINSON, Dvr. A.	Joined with unit's transport. To C.B.D. 24/9/17.	
JOHNSTONE, L.-Corpl. W.	Joined with unit's transport. Accidentally wounded 30/12/17. Re-joined. To demobilisation 7/2/19.	Greenhill, Moffat, Dumfriesshire.
JONES, S. & C. S. Corpl. S.	Joined 15/3/16. To 85th Fld. Coy. 30/6/16.	Wrockwardine Shoeing Forge, Wellington, Salop
KELLY, Dvr. P.	Joined from H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 25/8/17. To C.B.D. 11/11/17.	
KEMSLEY, Farr.-Sergt. F. R.	Joined from 496th Fld. Coy. 3/6/18 To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	2 Orchard St., Rainham, Kent.
KING, Dvr. J.	Joined 22/11/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	Elvedon, Thetford, Norfolk.
KITCHEN, Corpl. C. (later C.-S.-M.)	Joined with unit's transport. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit. (Later Army Gymnastic Staff).	
LEARY, Dvr. F.	Joined 24/10/16. To demobilisation 29/12/18.	
LEE, Dvr. S. F.	Joined from H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 25/8/17. To 13th Pontoon Park 22/2/18.	

LIDDIARD, DVT. C.	Joined 10/11/16. To demobilisation 11/3/19.	2 Signal Villas, Kings Rd., Newbury, Berks.
LLOYD, DVT. E.	Joined 21/3/18. To demobilisation 23/3/19.	52 The Lakes, Bewdley, Worcester.
LONIE, DVT. J.	Joined 25/5/17. To hospital 6/9/17.	
LOVE, DVT. E.	Joined 21/3/18. To hospital 11/3/19.	5 Highgate, Whitchurch, Salop.
LUCKHURST, DVT. A. E.	Joined 10/11/16. To hospital 13/2/19.	
MAKIN, DVT. S. P.	Joined 21/3/18. To demobilisation 12/3/19.	49 East Bank St., Southport.
MANDRY, DVT. A. J.	Joined with unit's transport. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	16 Charter Buildings, Berry St., Clerkenwell, London.
MANNING, DVT. H. E.	Joined 21/3/18. To 13th Pontoon Park 15/7/18.	
MARKS, DVT. J	Joined 21/3/18. To demobilisation 4/3/19.	81 Everton Rd., Everton, Liverpool.
MARSHALL, DVT. A.	Joined with unit's transport. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	
MARTIN, DVT. J.	Joined with unit's transport. To hospital 5/1/16.	
MASON, S. & C.-S. B.	Joined 20/3/16. To hospital 10/12/17.	Quarry House, Harrogate Rd., Ripon, Yorks.
MASON, DVT. H. R.	Joined 15/11/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	105 Cowper St., Hove, Sussex.
MASON, DVT. W. B.	Joined with unit's transport. To A.S.C. (M.T.) 22/8/17.	
MASON, S. & C.-S. W. J.	From England with unit. To hospital 30/9/16.	

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MATTHEWS, 2-Corpl. A. H.	From England with unit. To demobilisation 27/2/20.	107 Clarendon Rd., Cross Lane, Pendleton, Man- chester.
MAYOR, Dvt. C. W.	Joined 10/11/16. To C.B.D. 11/11/17.	
MCCANN, Dvt. G.	From England with unit. Wounded 9/8/15.	
MCLEAN, Dvt. J.	Joined with unit's trans- port. To Home Estab- lishment 31/8/18.	105 Carron Rd., Falkirk.
MELEAN, Dvt. D.	Joined 21/3/18. To hos- pital (?)	
MENCARINI, Dvt. A. G.	Joined 10/11/16. To 8th Fld. Troop 20/4/18.	
MERCER, Dvt. J. F.	Joined 21/3/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	45 Walter St., Blackburn.
MINARD, Dvt. J.	Joined from 85th Fld. Coy. 14/11/17. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
MITCHELL, S. & C.-S. J.	Joined 17/10/17. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	103 Broomside Lane, Dur- ham.
MOFFATT, L.-Corpl. S.	Joined 11/2/16. To 200th Railway Coy. R.E. 12/3/17.	
MOGFORD, Dvt. H	Joined 21/3/18. To hos- pital 11/2/19.	114 Draycott Avenue, Chelsea, London.
MORRIS, Dvt. J.	Joined 21/3/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
MORRISON, Dvt. J.	Joined from 486th Fld. Coy. 11/10/18. To C.B.D. 28/2/19 on disbandment of unit.	
NEAME, Dvt. J. T.	Joined from 66th Fld. Coy. 28/10/18. To de- mobilisation 4/3/19.	33 Essex St., Whitstable.



NORTNEY, Dvr. J. N.	Joined with unit's transport. To hospital 20/2/16.	
OAKFORD, L.-Corpl. S.	From England with unit. To demobilisation 28/2/19	
OLIVER, Dvr. J. C.	Joined with unit's transport. To hospital 6/8/16.	
PAGE, Dvr. R. H.	Joined with unit's transport. To demobilisation 3/3/19	5 Connaught Avenue, Kidderminster, Worcestershire.
PAULSON, Dvr. W. H.	Joined 10/11/16. To hospital 5/8/18.	8 Cambridge St., St. Annes, Nottingham.
PENFOLD, Dvr. F.	Joined with unit's transport. To hospital 29/11/17.	
PHILLIPSON, Dvr. G.	Joined from 5th Fld. Coy. 31/5/18. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	41 Lord St., Dalton-in-Furness, Lancs.
PHILLPOT, Dvr. A. J.	Joined with unit's transport. To hospital 4/7/16.	
POLLITT, Dvr. J.	Transferred from 1st King's Liverpools 18/6/18. To C.B.D. 28/2/19 on disbandment of unit.	
POWELL, Farr.-Sergt. W.	Joined with unit's transport. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To 66th Fld. Coy. 24/10/18.	Crawford Bridge, Spetisbury, nr. Blandford, Dorset.
PUGH, Dvr. J.	Joined 10/11/16. To C.B.D. 28/2/19 on disbandment of unit.	
ROBERTS, Dvr. A. W.	Joined with unit's transport. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To H.Q., R.E. 10th Div. 2/10/17.	Long Mains, Monkton, Pembroke, Wales.
ROBINSON, Dvr. F.	Joined with unit's transport. To demobilisation 11/3/19.	208 Manor Place, Walworth, London, S.E.

ROGERS, Dvr. H.	Joined with unit's transport. To 8th Fld. Troop 2/5/16.	
RUDD, Dvr. A. J.	Joined 10/11/16. To Fld. Eng. G.H.Q. 19/4/19.	
RUGGLES, Dvr. C.	Joined from 519th Fld. Coy. 21/11/17. To hospital 26/5/18.	
✕SHEPPERSON, Dvr.	Joined 10/11/16. Died on service 24/12/18.	Mrs. Shepperson, 161 Felsham Rd., Putney, London.
SMITH, Dvr. J. H.	Joined 10/11/16. To 13th Pontoon Park 2/2/18.	7 Leslie Rd., Dorking, Surrey.
SOUTHWAY, Dvr. J. W.	Joined from H.Q. R.E. 3rd Div. 22/11/18. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	26 Aiken St., Barton Hill, Bristol.
THOMAS, L.-Corpl. D. J.	Joined with unit's transport. To U.K. leave 19/1/19.	
TODD, Dvr. J.	Joined with unit's transport. To demobilisation 31/12/18.	18 Approach Row, East Wemyss, Fifeshire.
TOOMER, Dvr. J.	Joined with unit's transport. To U.K. 3/3/19 on re-enlistment.	102 Ranelagh St., Stams Shaw, Portsmouth. (Now with Black Sea Army.)
TOWNSEND, 2-Corpl. D.	Joined with unit's transport. To hospital (?) 1917.	Brett's Cottages, Framfield, Sussex.
VOUSDEN, L.-Corpl. W.	Joined with unit's transport. To hospital 2/7/16.	
WHARTON, L.-Corpl. J.	Joined with unit's transport. To hospital 2/12/15. Later 9th Fld. Troop.	
WHEELER, 2-Corpl. W.	Joined 11/2/16. To hospital 14/7/16.	
WHITE, Dvr. B. V. A.	Joined 24/10/16. To demobilisation 11/3/19.	

WILKINSON, Dvt. W.	Joined with unit's transport. To H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 2/10/17.	
WILLIAMS, Dvt. A. C.	From England with unit. To U.K. leave 14/1/19.	
WILLIAMS, Dvt. G. J.	Joined with unit's transport. To 66th Fld. Coy. 16/8/17.	49 Frogmore Rd., Fratton Park, Portsmouth.
WILLS, Dvt. F. C.	Joined from 46th Base Park Coy. 27/6/18. To demobilisation 31/12/18.	2 Salem Cottages, Pencoed Bridgend, Glamorgan-shire.
WILSON, L.-Corpl. C. F.	Joined with unit's transport. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	13 Muspole Rd., Pitt St., Norwich.
WILSON, Corpl. J. B.	Joined with unit's transport. Krivolak No.-Dec. 1915. To hospital 5/12/16.	
WOODWARD, Dvt. A.	Joined with unit's transport. To C.B.D. 24/9/17. Later 499th Fld. Coy.	167 Park Rd., St. Helens, Lancs.
WORRALL, Dvt. G.	Joined with unit's transport. To hospital 9/10/16.	44 Charles Arthur St., Nechells, Birmingham.
WYLDBORE, Dvt. G.	Joined from 66th Fld. Coy. 4/5/17. To H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 2/10/17.	

## DISMOUNTED.

ACKRILL, Spr. F. H.	Joined 20/1/16. To hospital 6/2/16.	
✱ACTON, 2-Corpl. C.	From England with unit. Killed 17/8/15.	
AINSCOUGH, Spr.	From England with unit. To hospital 22/3/16.	
ALEXANDER, Spr. W.	Joined 17/9/16. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	5 Rock Terrace, Londonderry, Ireland.

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ALLSOPP, Sergt. L. T.	From England with unit. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	1 Rose Villa, James St., Nuneaton.
ALLWORK, Spr. S.	Joined 29/12/17. To de- mobilisation 4/2/19.	Manor View, Old Woking, Surrey.
ALWAY, Spr. L. R.	From England with unit. Wounded 16/8/15. Re- joined. To hospital (?) 1917.	
APLIN, Corpl. G. E.	From England with unit. To hospital 12/7/16.	3 Davidson St., Colwich Rd., Nottingham.
ARMSTRONG, Spr. B.	Joined from 13th Base Park Coy. 27/6/18. To demobilisation 11/3/19.	34 Cambridge St., Wigan.
ARNOLD, Spr.	Joined 20/1/16. To hospital 28/2/16.	
ATKINS, Corpl. A.	Joined from 88th Fld. Coy. 11/2/16. To Commission Course 30/7/18.	Yew Tree House, Penn, nr. High Wycombe, Bucks.
ATKINS, Spr. F. J.	From England with unit. To hospital 13/9/15.	
AYRES, L.-Corpl. E.	Joined 20/1/16. To hos- pital 22/7/16.	
BAILEY, Spr. C.	Joined 20/1/16. To hos- pital 12/8/16.	
BAILEY, Spr. C. W.	Joined 20/1/16. To de- mobilisation 11/3/19.	61 Church Rd., Homerton, London, E.
BAILEY, Spr. F.	Joined 20/1/16. To hos- pital 10/6/16.	
BAILEY, Spr. T.	Joined from 439th Fld. Coy. 21/5/18. To hospital (?) 1918.	4 Spring Villa, Oxton, Birkenhead.
BALDERSTON, Spr. W.	From England with unit. To hospital 23/8/15	
BALDWIN, Spr. H. W.	From England with unit. To hospital 14/9/15.	

BANNISTER, Spr. J.	Joined 20/1/16. To A.D.W. Jaffa 28/2/18.	
BARCLAY, Corpl. E.	Joined from 410th Fld. Coy. 18/7/18. To hospital Nov. 1918.	
BARLOW, Spr. W.	Joined 29/12/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on dis- bandment of unit.	Dawley Cottage, Hillside Heswall, Cheshire.
BARNES, 2-Corpl. E.	Joined 24/10/16. To hos- pital 23/1/17.	
BARON, Spr. J.	From England with unit. To hospital 15/7/16.	7 St. Ann's Terrace, Stock- ton-on-Tees, Durham.
BARROW, 2-Corpl. A.	Joined 17/5/16. To U.K. leave 14/1/19.	30 Albert Rd., St. Anne's- on-Sea, Lancs.
BARTLETT, Spr. C.	Joined 29/12/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on dis- bandment of unit.	
BATCHELOR, Spr. A.	From England with unit. Todemobilisation 11/3/19.	Pevensy, 1 Watford Rd., Croxley Green, Herts.
✕BACHELOR, Spr. A. E.	Joined 11/2/16. Died of wounds 15/12/16.	
BAWDEN, Spr. A.	From England with unit. Wounded 27/8/15.	
BEARDMORE, Spr. J. W.	Joined 7/10/17. To de- mobilisation 22/2/19.	7 Pleasant Row, Long Eaton, nr. Nottingham.
✕BELFITT, Spr. A. H.	From England with unit. Killed 17/8/15.	
BIGWOOD, Spr. C. F.	From England with unit. To U.K. leave 16/11/18.	33 Tunis Rd., Shepherd's Bush, London.
BIRD, Spr. A.	Transferred from 1/6th Essex 9/7/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
BLINKINSOP, Spr. A.	Joined 4/5/18. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on dis- bandment of unit.	

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BLENKINSOP, Spr. R.	Joined 4/5/18. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit. Re-enlisted.	Summerhouse, Pierce-bridge, nr. Darlington, Durham.
BOARDMAN, Corpl. J. F.	From England with unit. To hospital 30/11/18.	21 Whitby St., Bradford Rd., Manchester.
BORTON, Sergt. F.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Re-joined 26/10/15. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To demobilisation 6/3/19.	c/o Messrs. Claridge & Co., Caxton Works, Frere Rd., Bombay.
BOULTON, 2-Corpl. R. B.	From England with unit. To Commission Course 30/7/18.	136 Katherine St., Ashton-under-Lyme.
BOURNE, Spr. J.	Joined 22/11/18. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	
✠BOURNE, L.-Corpl. J. E.	From England with unit. Died on service 13/8/16.	Mrs. Bourne, 9 St. Andrew's Rd., Clacton-on-Sea.
BOWDLER, Spr. C. H.	From England with unit. To U.K. leave 31/8/18.	36 Mardol Quay, Shrewsbury, Salop.
BOWN, Spr. A. H.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Re-joined 24/11/15. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	
BOYSE, Spr. F.	Transferred from 1/5th Bedfords 10/7/18. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	12 Silverdale St., Kempston, Beds.
BRADLEY, Spr. C.	Transferred from 2/4th Somerset L.I. 28/2/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	High St., Nunney, nr. Frome, Somerset.
BRENNAN, Spr. W.	Joined 15/4/18. To hospital 24/2/19.	
BROOK, Spr. J. W.	Joined 14/2/17. To U.K. leave 25/3/19.	6 Sowood Terrace, Ossett, Yorks.
BROWN, Spr. H.	Joined 8/11/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	

BROWN, Spr. J.	From England with unit. To hospital 6/8/15.	
✕BROWN, Corpl. J. B.	From England with unit. Killed 17/8/15.	
BROWN, Sergt. R.	Joined 20/1/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	560 Galloway's Buildings, Wellesley Rd., Denheath, Methil, Fifeshire.
BROWN, Spr. V.	Joined 9/12/17. To de- mobilisation 17/1/19.	
BROWN, Spr. W. D.	From England with unit. To 16th Wing R.F.C. 6/11/16.	20 Grantham St., Lincoln
BROWNE, Spr. J. W.	Joined 10/9/17. To Edu- cation School Dec. 1918.	18 Liverpool St., Salford, Manchester.
BUCHANAN, Pnr. A.	From England with unit. To hospital 3/8/15.	
BUCKLAND, L.-Corpl. F.	Joined 14/2/17. To hos- pital 18/9/17.	137 Ewart Rd., Forest Fields Nottingham.
BURKE, Spr. P.	Joined 20/1/16. To hos- pital 13/7/16.	Nouds St., Main St., Long- ford, Ireland.
BURKE, 2-Corpl. T. P., M.M.	Joined from 85th Fld. Coy. 26/9/16. Wounded 3/10/16. Rejoined. Hos- pital Dec. 1916.	20 Lot's Road, Chelsea, London.
BURLEY, Spr. A. J.	Joined 29/12/17. To hos- pital 14/1/19.	
BUTTERFIELD, Spr. H.	Joined 13/8/17. To Edu- cation School Dec. 1918.	
BUTTON, Spr. S. C.	Joined 29/12/17. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	181 Clarendon St., Dover.
CALDOW, L.-Corpl. W.	Joined from 439th Fld. Coy. 21/5/18. To de- mobilisation 28/2/19.	
CALVERT, Sergt. D. L.	Joined 20/1/16. To 496th Fld. Coy. 10/10/17.	

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CAMPBELL, Spr. T. L., <i>D.C.M.</i>	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Re- joined. To hospital 4/7/16. Later 4th Ad- vanced Park Coy.	
CANT, Pnr. D.	Transferred from 1/7th Royal Scots 29/1/18. To hospital (?) 1918.	
CARNEY, Pnr. A.	From England with unit. To hospital 18/7/16. Later 359th Water Coy.	
CARSE, Sergt. G. A.	Joined from 220th A.T. Coy. 19/1/18. To C.R.E. Alexandria 16/10/18.	
CARTER, Corpl. C.	From England with unit. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To hospital 7/7/16.	35 St. Anne's Villas, St. Anne's Rd., Southend- on-Sea, Essex.
CARTER, L.-Corpl. E. S.	Joined 11/2/16. To Com- mission Course 4/11/17.	107 Elgin Avenue, Maida Vale, London. (Now in Siam.)
✕CATCHPOLE, Spr. F. H. B.	From England with unit. Krivolak, Nov.-Dec. 1915. Killed 3/10/16.	
CHALMERS, Spr. J.	Joined 29/12/17. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	
CHURCHILL, Spr. A.	Joined 13/8/16. To de- mobilisation 11/3/19.	
CHURCHILL, Spr. A.	From England with unit. Wounded 11/8/15.	
CHURCHILL, L.-Corpl. C.	From England with unit. To hospital 4/9/15.	
CLARIDGE, Sergt.	From England with unit. To hospital 20/4/16.	
CLARIDGE, Spr. R. J.	Joined 13/8/16. Wounded 3/10/16.	
CLARK, Spr. J.	Joined 17/5/16. To hospital 10/7/16.	



COATES, Spr. A. P.	From England with unit. To U.K. 27/2/19 on re- enlistment.	115a Ecclesbourne Rd., Thornton Heath, Surrey. (Now with Black Sea Army.)
COBLEY, Spr. W.	From England with unit. To hospital 10/10/15.	
COLES, Spr. F. H.	Joined 11/2/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
COLLAS, Spr. A.	Joined 29/12/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on dis- bandment of unit.	
COLLIS, Spr. J. G.	From England with unit. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	127 West Rd., Shoebury- ness.
COOPER, Spr. J. R.	From England with unit. Wounded 31/8/15.	
CORBISHLEY, Spr. W. H.	Joined 20/1/16. To 13th Pontoon Park 28/4/18.	
CORFIELD, Spr. G. E.	Joined 14/2/17. To hos- pital (?) 1918.	Red House, Crumlyn Burrows, nr. Swansea.
CORNWELL, Spr. A.	Joined 20/1/16. To hos- pital 29/5/18.	35 Bentham Rd., South Hackney, London.
COTTERELL, Spr. W.	Joined from 5th Fld. Coy. 10/5/18. To demobilisa- tion 28/2/19.	10 Wellington St., Well- ington Square, Winson Green, Birmingham.
COUSINS, L.-Corpl. J. R.	Joined 25/2/17. To hos- pital 21/11/17. Later 436th Fld. Coy.	
COX, Spr. J. S.	Joined 17/5/16. To de- mobilisation 11/3/19.	64 Balfour Rd., Dover.
CRAWFORD, Spr. J. A.	Joined 29/12/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on dis- bandment of unit.	24 Grimsey Rd., Leiston, Suffolk.
CRICKMORE, Spr. J.	Joined 7/5/16. To hos- pital 21/7/16.	

CROFT, Spr. T.	Joined from 66th Fld. Coy. 25/2/17. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
DAVENPORT, Spr. R.	Joined 13/8/16. To de- mobilisation 11/3/19.	The Marsh, Congleton, Cheshire.
DAVIES, Spr. D. H.	Transferred from 4/5th Welsh 27/8/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	7 Canal St., Barrack Hill, Newport, Mon.
DAVIES, Spr. J.	Joined 20/1/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	Park Place, Newbridge, nr. Ruabon, N. Wales.
DAVIES, Spr. W. R.	Joined 8/11/17. To de- mobilisation 28/2/19.	12 Gladstone St., Abera- man, S. Wales.
DAVIS, Spr. G.	Joined 14/2/17. To 66th Fld. Coy. 5/4/17.	Richmond House, 41 St. Michael's Rd., Bourne- mouth.
DAVIS, Spr. R. J.	Transferred from 1/7th Royal Scots 29/1/18. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	
DICKS, Spr. A.	Transferred from 265th Bde. R.F.A. 30/4/18. To hospital 22/2/19.	
DINGLE, Spr. G. W.	Joined 18/4/17. To hos- pital (?) 1918.	
DIXON, Spr. F. C.	From England with unit. To hospital 25/10/17. Later 46th Base Park Coy.	18 Sidmouth St., Grays Inn Rd., London, W.C.
DIXON, Spr. J.	Joined 8/11/17. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	15 Roseberry Avenue, Preston, N. Shields.
DOBSON, Spr. C. D.	Joined 13/8/17. To de- mobilisation 11/3/19.	
DOIDGE, Spr. R. A.	Joined from 46th Base Park Coy. 16/6/18. To Education School, Dec. 1918.	29 Newton St., Millom, Cumberland.

DOLLEY, Spr.	From England with unit. To hospital 26/10/15.	
DOWD, Spr. P.	Joined 13/8/16. Wounded 10/9/16. Rejoined 1/6/17. To 66th Fld. Coy. 29/7/18.	Ordnance Survey Offices, Phoenix Park, Dublin.
✠DOWNES, C.-S.-M. W. S.	From England with unit. To hospital 12/11/15. Died.	
DOWNIE, 2-Corpl. (later T.-S.-M.)	Joined 20/1/16. To 8th Fld. Troop 2/5/16.	
DUFF, L.-Corpl. D.	Joined 20/1/16. To de- mobilisation 11/3/19.	
EDWARDS, Spr. R. H.	From England with unit. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	
EGGLESTON, Spr. H. L.	From England with unit. To hospital 6/8/15.	
ELDERS, Spr. E.	From England with unit. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	16 Clayburn St., Hulme, Manchester.
EVANS, Spr. D.	Joined 20/12/17. To de- mobilisation 21/3/19.	Waunrhydd, Newchurch, Talog Rd., Carmarthen.
EVANS, Spr. J. L.	Joined 11/10/16. To hos- pital 5/5/18. Later 14th A.T. Coy.	
EVANS, Sergt. P.	From England with unit. To hospital 8/8/15.	
EYRE, Spr. W. E.	Joined from 14th A.T. Coy. 27/10/18. To 14th A.T. Coy. 2/2/19.	
FALLS, Spr. R.	From England with unit. To hospital 30/7/16.	
FAULKNER, Spr. H.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Re- joined 24/11/15. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	5 Serpentine Rd., Har- borne, Birmingham.

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FLAHERTY, Spr. J.	Transferred from 1st Con- naught Rangers 27/8/18. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	
FLETCHER, Spr. J. A.	Transferred from R.F.A. 17/1/17. To hospital 23/9/18.	
FLINTOFF, Spr. T. H.	From England with unit. To hospital 16/10/16.	
FOLEY, Spr. C.	Joined 20/1/16. To 85th Fld. Coy. 4/12/16.	
✕FORBES, Sergt. A.	From England with unit. To R.E. Commission 14/10/16. Killed.	
FORBES, Spr. J.	Joined 20/1/16. To hos- pital 21/3/16. Later 66th Fld. Coy.	
FORSHAW, 2-Corpl. W.	From England with unit. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To Commission Course 30/7/18.	
FORSTER, Spr. I. H.	Joined 17/9/16. To hos- pital May 1917.	68 Penarth Rd., Grange, Cardiff.
FOUND, Spr. T. N.	Joined 15/4/18. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	
FOWLE, L.-Corpl. F. N.	Joined from 484th Fld. Coy. 25/10/18. To de- mobilisation 10/3/19.	16 Howard St., Grove Rd., Norwich.
FRANKLIN, Spr. A.	From England with unit. To hospital 16/7/16.	
FROSTICK, Corpl. G. A.	Joined from 88th Fld. Coy. 17/9/16. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	17 Station Rd., Cromer.
FULTON, L.-Corpl. W.	From England with unit. To hospital 8/8/15.	
GARRETT, Spr. G.	Joined 20/1/16. To Print- ing Section G.H.Q. 2/3/16.	

GERRARD, Pnr. P. J. C.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Later 67th Fld. Coy.	
GERRY, Spr. A.	Joined 20/12/17. To de- mobilisation 29/12/18.	
GILES, L.-Corpl. A.	From England with unit. To hospital 8/8/15.	
GINN, Spr. A.	From England with unit. To hospital 14/1/16. Later 220th A.T. Coy.	
GODFREY, Spr. C.	Joined from 72nd Fld. Coy. 17/9/16. To R.O.D. R.E. 11/12/17.	51 Ramsay Rd., South Acton, London.
GOOCH, Spr. H. W.	Joined 29/12/17. To de- mobilisation 29/12/18.	17 Sun Lane, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
GRAHAM, Spr. A. J.	From England with unit. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	
GRAHAM, Spr. F.	Joined from 72nd Fld. Coy. 11/2/16. To 38th Fld. Coy. 5/4/17.	180 Hamilton St., Colley- hurst St., Rochdale Rd., Manchester.
GRANT, L.-Corpl. A. W.	Transferred from R.F.A. 23/12/16. To hospital 6/4/18.	40 High St., Aberdeen.
GRANT, L.-Corpl. E.	From England with unit. Wounded 16/8/15. Re- joined 3/10/15. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To hos- pital (?) 1917.	96 King William St., Tun- stall, Stoke-on-Trent.
GREENWOOD, Spr. G. A.	Joined 17/5/16. Wounded 3/10/16. Rejoined. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on dis- bandment of unit.	Hyde's Cottages, Middle- bourne, Farnham, Surrey.
GREER, Corpl. F.	From England with unit. To demobilisation 27/2/20.	127 Collyhurst St., Old- ham Rd., Manchester.
GRIFFEN, Spr. H.	From England with unit. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To demobilisation 11/3/19.	62 Crowle St., Hedon Rd., Hull.

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GRIFFITHS, Spr. G. E.	Transferred from A.S.C. 30/4/18. To hospital (?) 1918.	13 Sager Fold, Colne, Lancs.
✠GROVES, Spr. J.	From England with unit. Killed 17/8/15.	
GULLIFORD, L.-Corpl. F.	Joined 9/12/17. To Edu- cation School, Dec. 1918.	86 Kilver St., Shepton Mallet, Somerset.
GWILLIAM, L.-Corpl. C. H., R.A.M.C.	Attached to unit Feb. 1916-June 1918.	
HALL, L.-Corpl. A. E.	Joined 29/12/17. To hos- pital (?) 1918.	
HALLIGAN, Spr. D.	Transferred from 5th R.I.F. 22/12/16. To de- mobilisation 28/2/19.	
HANDS, Spr. E. V. P.	Joined 24/3/18. To de- mobilisation 28/2/19.	
HARCOURT, L.-Corpl. O. C.	Joined 24/10/16. To R.O.D. R.E. 16/2/17.	
HARDY, L.-Corpl. C.	From England with unit. To hospital 26/7/16.	British Club, Lourenço Marques, Portugese East Africa.
✠HARRIS, Sergt. W. L.	From England with unit. To Commission 3/10/16. Killed June 1917.	Miss A. E. Harris, Western Rd., Ashburton, Devon.
HARRISON, L.-Corpl. F.	Joined 20/1/16. To hos- pital 3/1/18.	
HARRISS, L.-Corpl. T. P.	Joined 11/2/16 To Com- mission Course 30/7/18.	187 Kettering Rd., North- ampton
HART, Spr. W. G.	Joined 17/5/16. To hos- pital 27/9/16.	
HARVEY, Spr. J. A.	From England with unit. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	Trent, Osborne Rd., East Cowes.
HAWKESWORTH, Pnr. G.	From England with unit. Wounded 13/8/15.	

HEFFRON, Spr. G.	Joined 10/11/16. To hospital 16/1/18.	
HENRIKSEN, Corpl. H.	Joined from 85th Fld. Coy. 27/11/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
HENSON, Pnr.	From England with unit. To hospital 16/10/15.	
HENSTOCK, Spr. R.	From England with unit. Todemobilisation 27/2/19.	46 Albion St., Miles Platting, Manchester.
HEPBURN, L.-Corpl. T.	Joined 4/9/18. To Home Establishment 29/12/18.	13 Precinct St., Couper Angus, Perthshire.
HERWIG, Spr. A. C. (later 2-Corpl.)	Joined 13/8/17. To 35th A.T. Coy. 10/11/17.	27 Quantock Rd., Bedminster, Bristol.
HICKS, Spr. G.	Joined 26/4/16. Wounded 7/6/18. Rejoined. To demobilisation 21/3/19.	17 Brand St., Meadow Lane, Nottingham.
HINDSON, Spr. H.	Joined 17/5/16. To hospital 8/9/16.	6 Bishop St., Brooks Bar, Manchester.
HIPKIN, Spr. W.	Joined 10/11/16. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	124 McLellan St., Plantation, Glasgow.
HOGBIN, Pnr. D.	From England with unit. Home to munition work 15/8/16.	28 Archer St., West Hartlepool.
HOLOHAN, Spr. P.	Transferred from 6th Leinsters 11/9/16. To hospital 23/1/18.	
HOWDEN, Spr. J.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15.	
HOWLETT, Spr. E. J.	Joined 13/8/16. To hospital 29/9/16.	
HUBY, Spr. W.	Joined 13/8/16. To 85th Fld. Coy. 4/12/16.	
HUCKBERRY, L.-Corpl. W.	From England with unit. To hospital 10/8/15.	

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HUMAN, L.-Corpl. A. J.	Joined 17/9/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	Swan Inn, London Rd., Boxmoor, Herts.
HUMPHREYS, Spr. H.	Transferred from 24th R.W.F. 25/2/18. To de- mobilisation 13/2/19.	29 North Penrallt, Car- narvon.
HUNTLEY, Spr. W. N.	Joined 10/2/16. To hos- pital 5/3/16.	
HYNE, L.-Corpl. G.	From England with unit. Killed 17/8/15.	
INGS, Spr. F. J.	From England with unit. To hospital 2/10/16. Later 143rd A.T. Coy.	31 Talbot Rd., Twicken- ham, London.
INNES, Pnr. S. C.	From England with unit. Todemobilisation 27/2/19.	3 West Cottage, Mill Rd., Deal, Kent.
JACKSON, Spr. A.	Joined 17/5/16. To hos- pital 28/7/16.	
JACKSON, 2-Corpl. W.	Joined 20/1/16. To hos- pital 22/4/16.	
JAMES, Spr. H.	Joined 11/2/16. To hos- pital 13/5/16. Later 85th Fld. Coy.	
JAMIESON, Spr. J.	From England with unit. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. Todemobilisation 27/2/20.	440 Great Northern Rd., Aberdeen.
JARVIS, Spr. P.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15.	
JENNINGS, 2-Corpl. W. G.	From England with unit. Todemobilisation 27/2/19.	41 North St., Edgware Rd., Marylebone, London.
JOHN, C.-S.-M. T. J., M.S.M. (later R.-S.-M.)	Joined 20/1/16. To H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 7/2/17.	
JOHNSON, Spr. W.	Joined 29/12/17. To hos- pital 21/6/18.	



JOHNSON, Spr. W.	Joined from 439th Fld. Coy. 21/5/18. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	40 Farm Rd., Lower Tranmere, Birkenhead.
JOHNSON, Spr. W. R.	From England with unit. Todemobilisation 28/2/19.	3 Moreland Terrace, Wolverton, Bucks.
✱JONES, Spr. A.	From England with unit. Killed 17/8/15.	
JONES, Spr. A.	Transferred from 1/7th R.W.F. 27/8/18. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	
JONES, Spr. C.	Joined 17/5/16. To hospital 6/7/16.	
JONES, Sergt. H. B.	From England with unit. Todemobilisation 27/2/19.	64 Bridge St., Llangefni, Anglesey.
JONES, Spr. J.	Joined from 1/2nd Lowland Fld. Coy. 17/9/16. To hospital 30/11/16.	
JONES, Sergt. R.	From England with unit. Todemobilisation 28/2/19.	2 Wilson St., Hillhead, Glasgow.
JONES, 2-Corpl. W.	From England with unit. To hospital 13/7/17.	
JOSEY, Spr. W.	Joined 11/2/16. To hospital 22/3/16.	
✱JULIUS, Spr. A. E.	From England with unit. Killed 17/8/15.	
JUNIPER Spr. W.	Transferred from 1/5th Essex 10/7/18. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	North St., Tollesbury, Essex.
KEENAN, Spr. H.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15.	
KEMBLE, Spr. W. J.	From England with unit. To U.K. leave 25/10/18.	36 Mulberry St., Teignmouth, Devon.
KENNEDY, Spr. T.	From England with unit. To Home Establishment 26/12/18.	Ancrum, Roxburghshire, Scotland.

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KENNETT, Spr. F. C.	From England with unit. Wounded 9/8/15. Re- joined 3/10/15. To de- mobilisation 27/2/20.	93 Victoria St., Small Heath, Birmingham.
✕KERR, Sergt. A.	From England with unit. To R.E. Commission 14/4/16. Killed.	
KERR, Spr. J.	From England with unit. To hospital 7/10/15.	
KERRIDGE, Spr. R.	Transferred from 1/5th Bedfords 10/7/18. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	Barrow, Bury St. Edmunds Suffolk.
KERSHAW, Spr. S.	Joined from 85th Fld. Coy. 11/2/16. To hospital 31/1/17.	
KIBBLE, Spr. E.	Joined 20/1/16. To hos- pital 25/6/16.	
KINGAN, L.-Corpl. H. J.	From England with unit. To hospital Jan. 1919.	
✕KITCHEN, Spr. C.	From England with unit. Killed 22/8/15.	
KNIGHT, Spr. C. M.	Joined 10/6/18. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	
✕KNIGHT, Pnr. T.	From England with unit. Died of wounds 4/10/15.	
KNOWLSON, Spr. J.	From England with unit. To hospital 24/11/16.	89 Lower Dale Rd., Derby.
LACEY, Spr. S.	Joined 31/3/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
LANCASTER, Spr. W.	From England with unit. To hospital 8/3/16.	
LAVERY, Spr. T.	Joined from 85th Fld. Coy. 20/10/18. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	42 Little Francis St., New- townards, Ireland.

LEAHY, Spr. J.	Joined 29/11/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
LEAR, Spr. W. H.	Joined 31/1/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	21 Daniel St., Truro, Cornwall.
LEVERSLEY, Spr. G. R.	From England with unit. Todemobilisation 27/2/19.	
LEWIS, Spr. G. H.	From England with unit. Todemobilisation 27/2/19.	
LONG, Corpl. A.	Joined 20/1/16. To U.K. leave 31/1/17.	5 Porton, nr. Salisbury, Wilts.
LONG, Pnr. R. M.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15.	
LONGMAN, Spr. W. A.	Joined from 66th Fld. Coy. 17/4/17. To hospital 8/8/18.	Hawthorn, Lower Swanwick, Southampton.
LONGMATE, Pnr. F.	Joined 6/11/17. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	389 St. Helen's Rd., Daubhill, Bolton, Lancs.
LOWE, Corpl. H.	Joined 11/2/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	82 Station Rd., East Kirby, Notts.
LUDLAM, Spr. T. H.	Joined 20/1/16. To hospital 10/7/16.	
LUNDY, Spr. J.	Transferred from 1st Manchester 27/8/18. To Education School Dec. 1918.	140 Abbey Hills Rd., Oldham.
✠MABSON, L.-Corpl. H.	From England with unit. Killed 17/8/15.	Mrs. Mabson, Flatts Stile, Parwich, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.
MACHIN, Spr. W. S.	Joined 10/11/16. To 521st Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	
MACPHERSON, Spr. F. J.	Joined 13/8/17. To hospital (?) 1918.	55 Diamond Rd., Slough, Bucks.

MAEERS, Spr. H. J.	From England with unit. To U.K. 27/2/19 on re-enlistment.	
MANTON, Spr.	From England with unit. Wounded 2/9/15.	
MARINE, L.-Corpl. S.	From England with unit. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To U.K. leave 14/1/19.	1 Blandford St., East Hartlepool.
MARRIS, Sergt. H. F.	From England with unit. To hospital 16/10/15.	
MARSDEN, Spr. T.	Joined 13/8/16. To R.O.D. R.E. 15/2/17.	
MAY, Spr. A. W.	From England with unit. To hospital 23/10/15.	
McCLARY, Spr. A. E.	Joined 31/1/17. To hospital 28/11/18.	nr. Corner, Newlyn West, Penzance, Cornwall.
McDERMOTT, Spr. J.	From England with unit. To 420th Fld. Coy. (?) 1916.	
McGOWAN, Spr. J.	From England with unit. To hospital 4/2/18. Later 357th Water Coy.	82 Coupland St., Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire.
McGOWAN, Spr. W. S.	From England with unit. To hospital 15/7/16.	4 Ladhope Bank, Galashiels.
McHALE, Spr. J.	From England with unit. Todmobilisation 27/2/19.	47 Bickley St., Moss Side, Manchester.
McKEE, Spr. G.	From England with unit. Killed 12/3/17.	Mrs. McKee, 3 Mill Bridge, Kinross.
McKEOWN, L.-Corpl. R. G.	Transferred from 6th R.I.R. 1/12/16. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	301 North Queen St., Belfast.
McLAUGHLIN, Spr. J.	From England with unit. To hospital 26/8/15. Later 13th Base Park Coy.	

McLEAN, Corpl. J.	Joined 1/10/18. To demobilisation 11/3/19.	208 Windsor St., Liverpool.
MEADOWS, Sergt. W.	From England with unit. Todemobilisation 28/2/19.	17 Malvern Hill Rd., Nechells, Birmingham.
MERRISON, Spr. R.	From England with unit. To hospital (?) 1917.	144 Lloyd St., Whitworth Park, Manchester.
MIDDLEMISS, Spr. H. W.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15.	
MILES, Spr. B.	From England with unit. To hospital 23/8/15.	
MILLAR, Spr. D.	Joined 11/2/16. To 33rd Base Park Coy. 14/3/16.	
MILSOM, Spr. J.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Re-joined 18/10/15. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	6 Lindrea St., Agate St., Bedminster, Bristol.
MILTON, Spr. H. E.	Joined from 72nd Fld. Coy. 10/2/16. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	93 Winner St., Paignton, Devon.
✕MITCHELL, Sergt. P.	From England with unit. To R.E. Commission 14/4/16. Killed.	
MOLYNEUX, Spr. H.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Re-joined 28/11/15. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	
MONK, Spr. J.	Joined 11/2/16. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	141 Darwin Buildings, Darwin St., Walworth, London, S.E.
MOTT, Spr. A. R.	Joined 7/10/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	52 Dumfries St., Luton, Beds.
MUNRO, L.-Corpl. R. J.	Joined from 66th Fld. Coy. 27/10/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	

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MURPHY, Spr. J.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Later 33rd Base Park Coy.	
MURPHY, Spr. P.	Joined from 521st Fld. Coy. 21/11/17. To de- mobilisation 11/3/19.	
NESBET, Spr. D.	Joined from 13th Base Park Coy. 7/10/17. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on dis- bandment of unit.	
NEW, Spr. C.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15.	
NEWBOURNE, Spr. W. D.	Joined 8/11/17. To de- mobilisation 11/3/19.	Old Bridge Cottages, Gressenhall, nr. East Dereham, Norfolk.
★NEWTON, Spr. M.	Joined 9/5/17. Died on service 30/10/18.	Mrs. J. Newton, 479 Main St., Carlton, Nottingham
NEWTON, Spr. W. H.	Joined from 85th Fld. Coy. 27/11/16. To 38th Fld. Coy. 5/4/17.	51 Gladstone St., Sunder- land.
NICHOLLS, Spr. G. H.	Joined 17/9/16. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	230 Station Rd., Rainham, Kent.
NISBET, 2-Corpl.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Later to R.E. Commission.	
NORRIS, 2-Corpl. P. C.	Joined 2/2/17. To de- mobilisation 4/2/19.	28 Clonbrock Rd., Stoke Newington, London.
NOVIS, 2-Corpl. E. T.	Joined 31/1/17. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	Mount Pleasant, East Hoathly, Sussex.
O'CONNOR, 2-Corpl. A.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15.	
OGSTON, Sergt. M., D.C.M., M.M.	From England with unit. Wounded 3/10/16.	Greenfield Cottage, Boxley, Maidstone, Kent.
OLD, Spr. H.	Joined from 66th Fld. Coy. 3/5/17. To 14th A.T. Coy. 5/12/18.	

OLIVER, 2-Corpl. J.	Transferred from R.F.A. 16/8/16. To Home Establishment 1/10/18.	Stonecroft, Innerleithen, Peebles.
OLSSON, Spr.	From England with unit. To hospital 16/9/15.	
OTTEY, Spr. J.	Joined 31/1/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	Main St., Barton-under-Needwood, Burton-on-Trent.
OULD, Sergt. F.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Re-joined 18/10/15. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. Wounded and prisoner 6/12/17-11/12/17. Later 220th A.T. Coy.	3 Romney Place, Leeds.
PACEY, Spr. W.	Joined 10/11/16. To demobilisation 29/12/18.	Bottesford, Notts.
PAPE, Spr. J.	Joined from 85th Fld. Coy. 27/11/16. To 38th Fld. Coy. 5/4/17.	
PARKES, Spr. J.	Joined 10/11/16. To hospital 20/12/17.	
PARKINSON, Spr. R. C.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15.	
PARRY, Spr. F	Transferred from 24th R.W.F. 25/2/18. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	Nine Houses, Shotton, nr Chester.
PEA, Spr. C. E.	Joined from 17th Fld. Coy. 10/9/17. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	Beal, nr. Goole, Yorks.
PEARSON, Spr. C.	From England with unit. To 38th Fld. Coy. 5/4/17.	
PEET, Spr. A. C.	Joined 22/8/16. To 85th Fld. Coy. 4/12/16.	
PEIRSON, Spr. J. T.	Joined from 66th Fld. Coy. 29/11/17. To hospital 12/12/17.	

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PERRYMAN, Spr. W.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15.	
PHILLIP, Spr. F.	Joined 13/8/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	Netherbow, Waterside, Bishop Mill, Elgin.
PHILLIPS, Corpl. E.	Joined 11/2/16. To Com- mission Course 24/4/17.	49 Annesley Rd., Hucknall, Notts.
PIPE, Spr. G. R.	From England with unit. To R.O.D. R.E. 13/2/18.	
PIRRIE, Spr. T.	From England with unit. To hospital 10/7/16.	
PITTARD, Spr. H. H.	Joined from 35th A.T. Coy. 24/7/18. To Home Establishment 4/2/19.	Cotton Lane, Keinton Mandeville, Taunton, Somerset.
PLEASS, Spr. S.	Transferred from R.A.M.C. 1/10/18. To demobilisa- tion 27/2/19.	
POOLE, Corpl. S. A.	Joined from 72nd Fld. Coy. 11/2/16. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	40 Forstall Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.
PORTER, Spr. F. C.	Joined 11/2/16. To hos- pital 6/10/16.	
POSTLE, Spr. R. G.	Joined 20/1/16. To 13th Base Park Coy. 1/12/17.	
PREEN, Spr. A. C.	Joined 17/5/16. To 420th Fld. Coy. 1917.	
PRESTON, Spr. G.	From England with unit. To hospital 27/10/15. Later 220th A.T. Coy.	
PRICE Spr. B.	From England with unit. Wounded 20/8/15.	
PRICE, Spr. T. E.	Transferred from R.A.M.C. 7/9/18. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	
RAE, Spr. J.	Joined 26/4/17. To de- mobilisation 29/12/18.	



RADCLIFFE, Spr. S.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15.	
RAWLINS, C.-S.-M. A., M.M.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Re- joined 29/8/15. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	Sunnyside, Durrington, Salisbury.
READ, Spr. T.	Transferred from 1/5th Bedfords 10/7/18. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	
REDDY, Spr.	From England with unit. To hospital 12/10/15. Later 46th Base Park Coy.	
REED, Spr. T.	From England with unit. To hospital 18/9/15.	
REEVE, Pnr. F.	Joined from 5th Fld. Coy. 15/5/18. To demobilisa- 27/2/19.	212 Kenelm Rd., Small Heath, Birmingham.
REYNOLDS, Sergt. W.	Joined 10/11/16. To de- mobilisation 18/3/19.	34 Waylen St., Reading, Berks.
RICHARDS, Spr. J.	From England with unit. To R.O.D. R.E. 2/3/17.	
RIGBY, Spr.	From England with unit. To hospital 7/10/15. Later 143rd A.T. Coy.	
RIX, Spr. L. G.	Joined 31/1/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on dis- bandment of unit.	
ROBERTSON, Spr. W.	From England with unit. To hospital 31/7/16.	
ROBINSON, Spr. H.	From England with unit. Wounded 20/8/15. Re- joined 24/11/15. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	
ROBINSON, Pnr. J.	From England with unit. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	18 Dundonald Avenue, Stockton Heath, War- rington.

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RODWAY, Spr. L. J.	Joined 17/9/16. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	
ROGERS, Spr. L. J.	Joined 10/11/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	65 High West St., Dorchester, Dorset.
ROGERSON, Spr. C.	From England with unit. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	14 Sanbach Rd., Reddish, Stockport.
ROLLEY, L.-Corpl. T. W. A.	Joined 17/9/16. To 420th Fld. Coy. (?) 1917.	57 King Alfred St., Derby.
✱ROONEY, Spr. P.	From England with unit. Killed 9/8/15.	
ROSE, Spr. T. S.	Joined 20/1/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	74 Sandridge Rd., St. Albans, Herts.
ROSIE, Spr. T.	Joined 14/2/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	Old School, Flotta Orkney.
ROSS, Spr. A.	Joined 13/8/18. To demobilisation 28/2/20.	
ROTHWELL, Spr. D. H.	Joined 10/11/16. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	
ROWLANDS, Pnr. T.	Joined 13/8/18. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	Runcory, Trefor, Llangefni, Anglesey.
ROYLE, 2-Corpl. H.	From England with unit. To hospital 20/1/19.	10 Benson St., Broughton, Salford, Manchester.
RUSSELL, Spr. J.	Joined 18/9/16. To 85th Fld. Coy. 4/12/16.	12 Kingsley Rd., Pinner, Middlesex.
RYDER, Spr. W.	From England with unit. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	
SANDERS, Sergt. W.	From England with unit. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To demobilisation 4/2/19.	89 St. Peter's St., Islington, London.
SANDERSON, L.-Corpl. J.	From England with unit. To R.F.C. 6/11/16.	

SARTIN, Spr. G.	From England with unit. Wounded 13/8/15. Re- joined 3/10/15. To de- mobilisation 28/2/19.	4 Trinity Square, Preston, Lancs.
SAUNDERS, Spr. F. L.	Joined 31/1/17. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	137 Glassbrook Rd., Rush- den, Northants.
SAYERS, Spr. E.	Joined 31/1/17. To 357th Water Coy. 22/9/18.	Station Rd., Cowfold, Horsham, Sussex.
SCANLON, Spr. C. R.	Joined 17/9/16. To 85th Fld. Coy. 16/11/17.	
SCARLETT, Spr. A. W.	Joined 20/1/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	2 Woodbine Villas, Rey- don, Southwold, Sussex.
SCOTT, Spr. G. W.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Re- joined 3/10/15. To hos- pital 23/7/16.	235 Chingford Rd., Walt- hamstow.
SCOTT, L.-Corpl. W.	From England with unit. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To hospital 18/7/16.	
SHAKESPEARE, Spr.	From England with unit. To 8th Fld. Troop 2/5/16.	
✠SHARPE, Spr. J.	From England with unit. Killed 17/8/15.	
✠SHINER, L.-Corpl. A.	From England with unit. Killed 17/8/15.	
SHOOSMITH, Spr. R.	Joined 7/5/16. To hospital 16/6/16.	
SIMS, Sergt. W.	From England with unit. To demobilisation 27/2/19.	
SKINGLEY, Spr. C. N.	Joined 31/1/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on dis- bandment of unit.	Hope Cottage, Turner's Hill, Crowley Down, Sussex.
SKINNER, Spr. H.	Joined 17/9/16. To 85th Fld. Coy. 4/12/16.	

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SLACK, Spr. J. L.	Joined 2/2/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	393 Great Horton Rd., Bradford, Yorks.
SLATER, Spr. J. M.	Joined 31/1/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	
SMALLMAN, Spr. J.	Joined 13/8/16. To hospital 31/1/17.	46a Cottage, Horse Market St. Chalmers's, Warrington.
SMITH, Spr. A.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Re-joined 3/10/15. To hospital 12/1/16.	
SMITH, Spr. C.	From England with unit. To hospital 12/9/15.	
SMITH, L.-Corpl. J.	Joined 20/1/16. To hospital 19/7/16.	
SMITH, Corpl. J. H.	Joined 20/1/16. To G.H.Q. Signals 3/4/16.	
SMITH, Spr. J. P.	Joined 10/11/16. To R.O.D. R.E. 11/12/17.	
SMITH, Corpl. S. J.	From England with unit. To Commission Course 30/7/18.	36 Chapel St., Castle, Northwich, Cheshire.
SMITH, 2-Corpl. T. P.	Joined 20/1/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	Bridge of Canny, Banchory, Aberdeenshire.
SOUTHALL, Spr. E. B.	Joined 20/1/16. To demobilisation 4/2/19.	Lyston, nr. Hereford.
SPENCER, Spr. G. S.	Joined 31/1/17. To hospital (?) 1917.	3 Narland View, Savile Park, Halifax, Yorks.
STANTON, Pnr. W. J.	Joined 10/11/16. To hospital 9/12/18.	7 Howard St., Bedford.
STAPLEY, Spr. R. F.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Re-joined. To demobilisation 28/2/19.	Kent House, Cottenham Rd., Worthing, Sussex.

STEER, Corpl. W.	Joined 31/1/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	Egdean Cottages, nr. Fittleworth, Sussex.
STOCKTON, Spr. W.	Joined 20/10/17. To demobilisation 29/12/18.	
STONE, Spr. W.	From England with unit. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To hospital 19/7/16.	
STONIER, Spr. W.	Joined 20/1/16. To hospital 1/8/16.	
STORR, Spr. J. R.	Joined from 85th Fld. Coy. 9/5/17. To U.K. leave 16/11/18.	6 St. Ann's Lane, Boston, Lincs.
SULLIVAN, Spr. E.	Joined 20/1/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	37 Cloves Rd., Barking Rd., East Ham, London.
SULLIVAN, Spr. T.	From England with unit. To hospital 14/10/15.	
SUTCLIFFE, Spr. W.	Joined 31/1/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	88 Netheroyd Hill Rd., Cowcliffe, Huddersfield, Yorks.
SWEET, Spr. T. J.	Joined 20/1/16. To 66th Fld. Coy. 21/3/16.	
TANNER, Spr. W. G.	Joined from 484th Fld. Coy. 4/5/18. To 484th Fld. Coy. 7/12/18.	Wold, Northampton.
TAYLOR, Spr. A.	Joined 10/11/16. To hospital 1/2/19.	
TAYLOR, Pnr. G.	From England with unit. To hospital 3/9/15.	
TAYLOR, Spr. G	Joined 31/1/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	6 Occupation Rd., Lincoln.
TERRY, Spr. A.	Joined 10/11/16. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	

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THISTLETON, Corpl. A. G.	From England with unit. To Home Establishment 15/10/18.	5 Drewton Terrace, Buck- ingham St., Hull.
THOM, C.-Q.-M.S. G. M.	Joined 20/1/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	67 Main St., New Deer, Aberdeenshire.
THOMAS, Spr. H. N.	Joined 11/2/16. To hos- pital 12/12/16.	Waun Villa, Blaenavon, Monmouthshire.
THOMAS, Spr. M.	From England with unit. To hospital 21/8/15.	
THOMPSON, Spr. J.	From England with unit. Wounded 20/8/15. Later R.O.D. R.E.	
THORNTON, Spr. F. J.	Joined 31/1/17. To 85th Fld. Coy. 14/12/18.	2 Orchard St., Burton-on- Trent.
TINNAMS, Pnr. J. H.	From England with unit. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. Wounded 1/10/16. Later 33rd Base Park Coy.	
TIPPEN, Spr. F. C.	Joined 20/1/16. To hos- pital 23/4/16.	
TOLLEY, Spr. W.	Joined from 85th Fld. Coy. 27/11/16. To 17th Fld. Coy. 5/4/17.	189 Cattle Rd., Small Heath, Birmingham.
TOMS, Spr. E. J.	Joined 20/1/16. Wounded 3/10/16.	
TONGE, Spr. J.	Joined from 5th Fld. Coy. 10/5/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	35 Ingleby St., Ladywood, Spring Hill, Birmingham.
TOPLIS, Spr. W.	From England with unit. To hospital 7/1/18.	
TREBBLE, Spr. J. H.	From England with unit. To 17th Fld. Coy. 7/5/17.	Avalon, Woolacombe, N. Devon.
TURNER, Spr. B. L.	Joined 20/1/16. To U.K. leave 31/8/18.	16 Whitethorn St., Bow, London.

TURNER, Spr. G.	Transferred from 75th M.G. Bn. 21/10/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
VICK, L.-Corpl. W. J.	Joined 20/1/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	
VICKERS, Spr. R.	Joined from 143rd A.T. Coy. 10/9/17. To 521st Fld. Coy. 29/3/19 on disbandment of unit.	
VINCENT, Spr. G. H.	Joined 7/10/17. To hospital 20/12/17.	
VINER, Sergt. H. J.	Joined 13/8/16 To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	71 Parkside St., Battersea Park, London.
WAIT, Pnr. J. W.	Joined 21/8/16. To hospital 1/10/16.	Avon House, Danylan Rd. Pwllgwaun, Pontypridd.
WAKE, Corpl. T.	From England with unit. To hospital 29/10/18.	
✠WAKINSHAW, Spr. T.	From Eugland with unit. Killed 16/8/15.	
WALFORD, Spr. F.	Transferred from 24th R.W.F. 25/2/18. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit	17 Stirchley, Shifnal, Salop
✠WALL, Pnr. W. G.	From England with unit. Died of wounds 20/8/15.	
WALLACE, Spr. J.	Joined from 72nd Fld. Coy. 20/1/16. To U.K. on munition work 23/3/17	
WALSH, Pnr.	From England with unit. To hospital 27/8/15.	
WATKINS, Spr. F.	From England with unit. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To hospital 12/1/16. Later 68th Fld. Coy.	

# APPENDIX

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WATSON, Spr. A. W.	From England with unit. Wounded 28/8/15.	
WEBB, Spr. T. W.	Transferred from 1/10th London 9/7/18. To hos- pital (?) 1918.	41 Warneford St., South Hackney, London.
WEIR, Spr. W. H.	Joined 13/8/16. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	c/o D. Simpson, 48 Rodney St., Edinburgh.
WELCH, Spr. A.	Joined 20/1/16. To hos- pital 27/1/16.	
WELCH, Spr. F. R.	Joined 11/2/16. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	14 Percy Rd., Kilburn, London.
WHITE, Corpl. C.	Joined 31/1/17. To C.B.D. 23/4/19 on disbandment of unit.	3 Onslow Rd., Plymouth, Devon.
WHITE, Spr. J.	From England with unit. Wounded 8/8/15.	
WHITEHEAD, Spr. A.	From England with unit. To hospital 2/1/16.	
WHITEHEAD, Spr. J.	Joined 13/8/16. To de- mobilisation 11/3/19.	1 Phoenix Terrace, Upper Reed St., North Shields.
WIGGLESWORTH, Spr. F. F.	Joined 30/5/18. To de- mobilisation 27/2/19.	1 Back High St., Wors- boro Dale, Barnsley.
WILCOCK, Corpl. E.	Joined 24/10/16. To de- mobilisation 28/2/19.	68 Birchall St., Warring- ton.
WILLIAMS, Spr. D.	Transferred from Cyclist Bn. 5/5/17. To demo- bilisation 3/3/19.	
WILMOT, Spr. J. W.	Joined 31/1/17. To 521st Fld Coy. 29/3/19 on dis- bandment of unit.	Rose Cottage, Hackney, nr. Matlock, Derbyshire.
WILSON, Spr. J.	From England with unit. To hospital 25/8/16.	
WILTSHIRE, Corpl. T.	From England with unit. Wounded 20/8/15.	



WINDSOR, L.-Corpl. D.	Joined 11/12/17. To hospital 11/1/19.	
WINTERBURN, L.-Corpl. F.	From England with unit. Wounded 17/8/15. Re-joined 26/10/15. To hospital Oct. 1916.	
WITHEY, Spr. T.	From England with unit. To hospital 1/8/16.	
WOOD, L.-Corpl. E. C.	From England with unit. Wounded 9/8/15.	
WOOD, Spr. G. E.	Joined 11/2/16. To demobilisation 11/3/19.	86 Camberwell Grove, London.
WOOD, Spr. T.	Joined 20/1/16. To hospital (?) 1917.	
WOOD, Spr. W.	From England with unit. To hospital 14/10/15.	
WOOD, L.-Corpl. W. F.	Joined 20/1/16. To Education School, Dec. 1918.	39 Rathfern Rd., Catford, London, S.E.
✠WOODCOCK, Spr. F.	From England with unit. Died on service 26/9/15.	
WRAY, C.-S.-M. A. H. (later R.-S.-M.)	From England with unit. Krivolak Nov.-Dec. 1915. To H.Q. R.E. 10th Div. 9/6/16.	Elm Villa, Boyne Valley Rd., Maidenhead, Berks.
WRIGHT, Spr. H.	Joined from 88th Fld. Coy. 11/2/16. To hospital 28/9/16.	
WRIGHT, Spr. T. H.	From England with unit. To hospital 28/9/16.	
WYKES, Sergt. E. A.	Joined 20/1/16. To hospital 22/7/16. Later 33rd Base Park Coy.	86 Katherine St., Rochester, Kent. (Now in Mauritius.)





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